ABOVE: Youth theatre to put on a scary musical! (See page 14).

Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM

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Married couple are in harmony on their tandem charity ride

ABOVE:
Preparing for the north to south Wales tandem ride (left to right): Coun Rosemary Deere, the Mayor of Porthcawl, and her consort Coun David Deere, Kim Watson (Barclays Bank), Andrew Jenkins, Susan Jenkins, and Caroline Tranter, manager, Barclays Bank Porthcawl.

A PORTHCAWL couple are setting off on a marathon charity cycle ride – on a bicycle built for two!

Husband and wife Andrew and Susan Jenkins of Austin Close, Newton, Porthcawl, are both keen cyclists, and wanted to be closer together when they went out riding...

So what better way to achieve this aim than to buy a tandem, which they did second hand on e-bay in August last year.

Andrew is an occupational hygienist in the health and safety department at Corus' Port Talbot works, while Susan works in Barclays Bank, Porthcawl.

Andrew and Susan soon came to grips with the special technique of riding in 'close harmony' on their new cycling machine, and are now embarking on an ambitious venture to raise money for Ty Hafan children's hospice.

Andrew and Susan are going to cycle on their tandem through Wales, from Connah's Quay in the north to Porthcawl in the south.

Any cash raised will be matched by Barclays Bank, and a copy of the map showing the approximate route of the tandem ride, will be on display in the Porthcawl branch of Barclays Bank.

Customers are invited to guess the final mileage for the ride, and the prize for the nearest guess is a football, signed by Swansea City players.

There will also be sponsorship forms available in the Porthcawl branch of Barclays, for anyone who wishes to make a donation to Ty Hafan.

'Alcoholic man' attacked his father after drinking session

Report by AJ Sicluna

AFTER a heavy drinking session, an alcoholic went to the home of his father and attacked him, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Lee Popham (28) sprayed a deep heat treatment from an aerosol into his face, grabbed him by the throat and squeezed his windpipe, said prosecutor David Thomas.

The victim, 57-year-old Robert Popham suffered from diabetes, arthritis and high blood pressure.

Lee Popham, of Pontycymmer, admitted a charge of common assault. He was sentenced to a community order which involved two years' supervison and has to undertake an alcohol abuse programme.

He was also made subject to an 8pm to 8am curfew for two months. He denied threatening to kill his father and the prosecution offered no evidence on this charge.

Recorder Elwen Evans told him: "The way you behaved towards your father was absolutely deplorable".

Popham said: "I agree."

The Recorder added: "If you don't defeat your alcohol problem, your future will be very bleak."

The court heard that Popham was in breach of a 12-week suspended sentence for assaulting his father on a previous occasion.

Mr Thomas said that Popham, drunk, had obtained a knife, threatened to harm himself and put it to his father's throat.

Mr Thomas said that on January 25, Popham went to his parents' home, following a drinking session.

His mother heard him saying to Mr Popham: "You don't love me."

Mr Popham said: "Of course I do."

The defendant then carried out the attack. Mr Popham fled to a neighbour for help in a very distressed state.

Popham was arrested, said he had been drinking cider and was an alcoholic.

Popham's counsel, James Evans, said he had been remanded in custody for 92 days.

"He is very ashamed of what he has done. Alcohol has clearly been his problem for some time. He desperately wants help."

Bridgend election fight may go down to the wire

IT'S ALL TO PLAY FOR!

ALL to play for – that was the message coming from all the political parties fighting the Bridgend constituency.

A snap check of the parties carried out by The GEM revealed that they were all redoubling their efforts in the 48 hours before today's poll.

The general view was that no party could feel that it was in the bag, and that many voters were still undecided.

Labour's Madeleine Moon, who is defending the seat and a majority of 6,523, said that the Labour vote was holding up well, but she felt that many people may not decide until they were actually in the polling station with the ballot paper in front of them.

She told The GEM: "We have been out morning, noon and night explaining our policies to people and answering their questions.

"This is the most important election for a generation and the future direction of the country is on the line. I urge people to consider that when placing their vote."

Her Conservative opponent is Helen Baker who has also been out night and day canvassing the constituency.

Helen's agent, veteran Conservative councillor David Unwin, said that in his view, after years of experience, the turn-out this time could exceed the last election by as much as 10 per cent.

"People are energised and motivated to go and out and vote in a way we have not seen for some years," he said.

"That may be down to the leaders' debates. We are getting a very positive result from people on the doorstep and I believe that the result is too close to call at the moment."

He said that while there may have been a 'Clegg bounce' nationally, people in Wales were used to a four-party split anyway, with Plaid Cymru contesting every seat, so it was a bit more difficult to judge in those circumstances.

The Lib-Dem candidate is Wayne Morgan, who represents the Laleston and Bryntirion ward on BCBC.

Coun Cheryl Green, who leads the party on the council, said that the campaign was going very well.

"We are getting a much better response than in previous years. This is so unlike other general elections.

"People are keen to speak to us and are wishing us well. It's an incredible reaction."

She claimed that there was a definite Clegg bounce in Bridgend.

"I think this election is history in the making, both nationally and locally," she added.

The Plaid Cymru candidate is Nicholas Huw Thomas. The party, nationally and locally, is targeting voters with the message that in a hung parliament, Plaid can play a strong hand in getting a better deal for Wales out of a minority government of whatever colour.

Long standing party activist Gwyn Howells of Llangynwyd said that voters were getting the message that while Plaid cannot form a Westminster government itself, it can influence the outcome of any deals done between the major parties. He went on: "We can punch above our weight and the more MPs we get, and the higher our vote, the more we can demand to protect Wales from the worst of the recession and the austerity measures to come."

Bridgend is also being contested by UKIP candidate David Edward Fulton and BNP candidate Brian Morgan Urch.

In an election where the outcome could be very close indeed, the votes that these two parties take off the major parties could literally spell the difference between success or failure for them.

The BBC has contacted the returning officer with a request to place TV cameras at the count – which would be a first for the borough – and is perhaps an indication that they are expecting a close result.

And we understand that staff who will be counting the votes tonight have been briefed on what will happen if there is to be a recount.

As we said, it's all to play for...

In the Ogmore constituency, Labour was confident that it would retain the seat, where Huw Irranca Davies is defending a majority of 13,703.

The other candidates are: Danny Clark, Plaid Cymru; Emma Sophie Moore, Conservative; Carolyn Ann Passey, UKIP; Jackie Radford, Liberal Democrat and Kay Thomas, BNP.

Four arrested after school arson attack

FOUR 14-year-old youths have been arrested on suspicion of arson after a fire broke out in a toilet block at Brynteg Comprehensive School on Tuesday (May 4).

DC Rebecca Merchant of Bridgend CID said: "Emergency services were called at around 3.15pm and the fire was brought under control. However, the toilet block suffered considerable damage.

"The youths have been bailed pending further investigation."

BEHIND THE SCENES AT BCBC!

ABOVE: The local pupils are pictured with the mayor.

PUPILS GO ON BOROUGH MAYOR'S GRAND TOUR

MAES YR HAUL Primary's school council had a chance to see behind the scenes at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) when they visited the Mayor, Coun Jefferson Tildesley.

Maes yr Haul, the borough's largest primary, has a busy and productive school council made up of 15 children which represent their fellow pupils.

They are involved with decision making processes within the school to ensure children aged three to 11 get a voice.

As part of their visit to the council, they met the Mayor in his parlour to talk about his role and visited the debating chamber where the council's 54 elected members meet.

Deputy head Beryl Taylor, who accompanied the children, said: "The pupils really enjoyed their visit to BCBC and would love a return trip.

"They particularly liked meeting the Mayor and were very pleased that he took the time to show them around. Maes yr Haul has a very active school council so it was good for them to see how the much bigger borough council works."

Mayor Tildesley added: "I was impressed with their interest, their enthusiasm and of course their excellent behaviour.

"Perhaps we have some borough councillors of the future among them!"

Furry flooring comfort for Dogs Trust charges

CANINE residents of Dogs Trust Bridgend recently received a huge donation of carpet samples and mats when the John Lewis store which opened last year, decided that rather than being thrown out, the comfy flooring could be put to good use.

The mats and carpets will be used to make the kennels at the Court Colman based rehoming centre even more snug and welcoming.

Dogs Trust Bridgend manager, Beverley Price said: "We work really hard to make the dogs' stay here as nice as possible so we're extremely grateful to John Lewis because this donation has allowed us to improve yet another aspect of their life at the centre."

John Lewis has also generously donated a coffee machine as a raffle prize for the rehoming centre's summer fayre which takes place on June 4 at Margam Country Park.

Anyone interested in making a donation of goods or rehoming a dog from Dogs Trust Bridgend should contact the Rehoming Centre directly on 01656 725219.

FOODBANK LOOKS FOR VOLUNTEERS

THE Bridgend Foodbank is four months old, and is looking for volunteers.

Administrator Ann Griffiths has issued the following update on its progress.

It is now four months since we opened, and as the current financial year closes we have been looking at what the foodbank has so far achieved and what our long term goals are. To date we have supplied food to 145 people, about half children and have given out 1.275 tonnes of food.

It has been a rewarding time and we are excited about recent developments which will enable us to reach many more needy families in the community. Those who are referred to us come from different areas in the borough, some travelling several miles to pick up their food, but all are very appreciative.

We are now in the process of moving the foodbank to new premises nearby. About three months ago we were offered the use of a shop for three months in Nolton St, and this came just in time for the first supermarket collection in Tescos. The shop would be ideal for a permanent home as it has more storage space, an office and better accessibility.

We have also taken on a warehouse supervisor and he is doing an excellent job, co-ordinating the everyday practical operations of the foodbank and overseeing the setting up of the first satellite centre in Cornelly.

This will be opening in May, and will be based in Cornelly Community Church, to provide for people living in the west of the borough. Porthcawl Comprehensive School has also taken on several projects for the foodbank including the production of a DVD that can be shown in schools, posters and a menu book.

Current needs of the project are:

● Volunteers : We have a team of committed volunteers but still need some extra help, and are looking for people who can give at least one hour per week. More help is particularly needed in the office, and with the reception teams. Anyone interested is welcome to visit the foodbank.

● Project manager: We are looking for a project manager (part time), to oversee the everyday operations of the foodbank. *For further details please email bridgendfoodbank@aol.com or telephone 01656 668870.*

● Finance: So far we have covered our costs from donations and grants, but we now need to raise funds so that the project can move forward on a more secure footing. In particular, regular expenses that need to be covered are the rental for the new premises, increased hours for our warehouse supervisor, and our everyday running costs.

If you would like to know more about the project, email bridgendfoodbank@aol.com or telephone 01656 668870.

Ogmore Time Travel keeps history alive

TIME TRAVEL is the name of an ambitious project put together by Ogmore Valley Community Council to upgrade some of the valley's most historic structures.

The council has applied for £20,000 of funding from Bridgend County Borough Council from the community and town council fund.

The scheme includes the refurbishment of the memorial shelter and the clock tower at Pricetown Square; the upgrading of the old railway platform in Ogmore Vale and work on the old clock tower in Evanstown.

The scheme will include the installation of information boards at each site giving details of its history. The council is working with the Ogmore Valley Historical and Heritage Society.

The work is estimated to cost just under £47,000, with the remainder of the money coming from the community council, although there are hopes that some funding may be available through the Western Valleys Strategic Regeneration Fund.

The work to be done includes placing railings around the clock in Pricetown to deter youngsters from sitting on the steps around it and creating a nuisance.

The police have recently conducted an operation in the area and dished out a number of ASBOs to local youngsters.

Railings will also be placed on the railway platform which will also be refurbished with picnic tables located nearby.

The work to the memorial shelter includes replacing the door plus cosmetic work.

The clocktower in Pricetown was erected in memory of the Wyndham Medical Aid Society, which was disbanded when the NHS was created in 1948.

The railway was opened in 1865 and the station in Ogmore Vale was built in the 1880s. The last passenger train from the valley ran on May 5, 1958 and from then on, the line was used only for coal trains until the last pit – Wyndham Western – closed in 1983.

This was followed by the lifting of the railway line and the demolition of the station in about 1988.

The railway line was later used for a community cycle path which runs up the valley.

Clerk Louvain Lake said that public consultation had been carried out by the council, and people in the valley wanted to see the Pricetown clock retained and put back in working order.

The original clocktower had lanterns on the side and plaques. It is hoped to put the clocktower back into its original condition.

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Westminster office - 02072194417. Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm (by appointment only). Telephone 01656 750002.
HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777
JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034
CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320
Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549
BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open: Monday: 10am to 2pm – information only; Tuesday to Friday: 10am to 12.30pm – advice sessions. Tuesday to Friday 12.30pm to 1.30pm – information only.
MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau **01656 734662**
POLICE Bridgend 01656 655555
Porthcawl 01656 785411
Maesteg 01656 732122
CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
GAS (escapes and emergency) **0800 111999**
ELECTRICITY (power cuts) **0800 0520400**
WATER SUPPLY (emergency) **0800 0520130**
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National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
CHILDLINE 0800 1111
NSPCC 0800 800500
RSPCA 0300 123 0744
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Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479
Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490
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HOSPITALS Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend **01656 752752/668090.**
Bridgend and District NHS Trust **01656 752752/668090.**
VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) **01656 810400**
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
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Bridgend Town Council **01656 659943**
Cefn Cribwr Community Council **01656 741354**
Coity Higher Community Council **01656 656358**
Cornelly Community Council **07882 044798**
Pyle Community Council **0790 460 4049**
Coychurch Higher Comm Council **01656 863418**
Coychurch Lower Comm Council **01656 647216**
Garw Valley Community Council **01656 736751**
Laleston Community Council **01656 656506**
Llangynwyd Lower Comm Council **01656 720086**
Llangynwyd Middle Comm Council **01656 738804**
Maesteg Town Council **01656 732631**
Merthyr Mawr Community Council **01656 670058**
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Ogmore Valley Community Council **01656 849402**
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Town centre congestion prompts pollution health warning in Maesteg...

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

AIR quality monitoring equipment is to be placed around Maesteg town centre – as a result of concerns about pollution caused by traffic queuing up at traffic lights.

Maesteg Town Council raised the issue with Bridgend County Borough Council after businessman Geoff Fahey contacted them with his concerns.

Mr Fahey, who runs the cafe in the indoor market, said that congestion in the town centre is being caused by the number of traffic lights in the town.

His main concern is the effect on health of air pollution and he has unearthed a report from a committee of MPs which says that 50,000 people are dying in the UK from diseases linked to air pollution and poor air quality.

In the past two years, two further sets of traffic lights have been installed in Maesteg – one at the entrance to Tesco on Castle Street and the other at the junction with Crown Road and Bridgend Road which leads to the new comprehensive school.

These two sets of lights are all on the road leading from Caerau to Garth and motorists have to negotiate four sets of lights in total with other sets at the junction of Castle Street and Talbot Street and at the entrance to Somerfield, also on Castle Street.

Mr Fahey said that there would be less congestion and queuing traffic – and therefore less air pollution – if the traffic lights were replaced with mini-roundabouts.

Mr Fahey has sent information to the town council, which has been passed to the borough council, quoting a report from the Environmental Audit Committee published last month which says that 50,000 people in Britain are dying every year as a result of air pollution.

Nine years are being wiped off some people's lives, according to the MPs who sat on the committee.

Committee chairman, Tim Yeo MP, said that air pollution was causing more deaths than passive smoking, traffic accidents and obesity, but receives little attention from government.

The report says that poor air quality is linked to cases of asthma, chronic bronchitis, heart and circulatory disease and cancer.

Commenting on this information, Mr Fahey said: "I suggest that a valley is one of the worst places for pollution to take its destructive toll.

"It is common knowledge that when the traffic lights by the Maesteg Harlequins club were broken some years ago, the traffic flowed freely through that area of town.

"It is clear that the unnecessary traffic lights must be having a detrimental effect on the health of everyone in our valley.

"Can we not just switch them off and monitor the effects on asthma and bronchitis sufferers? It will be interesting to see how long it will take for this common sense approach to be implemented."

BCBC has defended the need for traffic lights, stating that mini roundabouts are not as safe for pedestrians trying to cross the road.

But the council has now decided to install air pollution monitoring devices in the town.

In a statement to The GEM, the council says: "It follows a request from Maesteg Town Council after concerns were raised about the possible effects of traffic on local air quality.

"Locations for the monitoring equipment are currently being identified. The equipment is likely to be in place for several months."

Mr Fahey has also uncovered newspaper articles linking air pollution to high suicide rates – something which has been in the news throughout the Bridgend area for the past two years.

Mr Fahey has also passed this information onto the council. In his e-mail, he says that the recent spate of suicides throughout the area was unprecedented and had a devastating effect not only the families involved, but on the whole community.

Mr Fahey said that researchers in the USA had uncovered links between high levels of pollution and rocketing suicide rates, plus increased levels of brain cancer.

Healthy living show entertains 12,000 pupils

ABOVE: All smiles on the roadshow.

A HEALTHY living and recycling road show funded and led by the Bridgend Borough Council's catering and recycling services, has now finished its tour of local primary schools.

Headed by the Gregory Brothers and mascots Owain Owl and Eco Eli, audiences have been treated to entertaining performances, joining in with the dance moves and educational songs.

Head of the school meals service, Louise Kerton said: "This roadshow was made possible by a Welsh Assembly Government 'Appetite for Life' grant. Our aim was to inform local children and improve their food choices by encouraging them to consume foods containing essential nutrients that would have a positive affect on their health, wellbeing, behaviour, concentration and ultimately their educational attainment."

Mayor Jefferson Tildesley said: "The council is constantly striving to promote healthy lifestyles, as well as educate the public on reducing, reusing and recycling their waste.

"These roadshows allow important messages to be communicated to school children in a fun and informal way. If we can get them recycling and thinking about healthy eating in a pro-active manner, then hopefully they can pass on their knowledge and enthusiasm to their families and ensure a greener and healthier future is enjoyed by all residents across the borough."

Concern over gap in district nurse cover

A GAP in the provision of district nurse cover in Bridgend is being investigated, as part of a review.

At the moment, there is no district nurse cover in Bridgend from 4am, when local nurses go off duty, until 8am – when the new shift starts.

Concerns have been raised by residents about the need for 24-hour cover, especially for cancer patients who may need urgent pain relief.

A statement by the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Local Health Board said that staff are available in Neath Port Talbot during this four hour period. Staff at Neath give telephone advice and are also available to come across for calls.

However, relatives of terminally-ill patients point out that these nurses have a huge area to cover, which stretches from the Vale of Glamorgan to the top of the Neath Valley.

The old Bridgend Local Health Board, which was disbanded last October when its functions were merged into the new ABM board, promised to look at finding funding to plug this gap when it was previously raised almost two years ago by The GEM but it would appear that no action has yet been taken.

A spokesman for the board said that district nursing services are under review at the moment across the whole of the health board area, which includes Swansea, Gower, Neath, Port Talbot, Bridgend and the western Vale.

Pupils profiting from an early start to science

Left to right: Dan Mostyn, Dan Cash and Elan Edry.

THE science department at St John's school, Newton are celebrating successes in GCSE science modules.

Year-10 pupil Dan Cash set a new record with full marks in all four modules. Pupils Dan Mostyn and Elan Edry followed closely behind, scoring 50/50 in some of their modules.

Mrs Carol Clint, Headmistress commented: "The standard of these results is testament to the excellent work of the staff in our science department and the hard work and enthusiasm of our pupils.

"The general friendly atmosphere of the school and the mutual respect that staff and pupils have for each other, which is promoted by our smaller class sizes, are factors which play a big part in our pupils being able to achieve their full potential.

"Another major factor is that, at St John's, science begins at an early age. We have a dedicated science lab for our junior pupils and even our nursery children benefit from specialist science equipment to make experiments fun."

Lions' eggs record smashed in the Cups!

ONE of Bridgend Lions' spring fund-raising projects, a chocolate Easter Egg raffle, has yielded cracking results for the charity club.

Many local clubs and pubs took part in the egg raffles and through their customers' generosity they raised a record sum of nearly £1,400 to help Bridgend Lions to distribute more funds to needy charity and community causes.

This year's top fund-raising pub is Southerndown's Three Golden Cups, whose regulars raised £260 for Lions' charities.

President of Bridgend Lions, Goff Morris, said that he was "thrilled" with the response from clubs and pubs, giving special thanks to Alun and Elizabeth Williams of 'The Cups', as well as staff and customers for their support.

He mentioned also those generous and, no doubt, slim winners who donated their chocolate eggs to the hospital and local care homes. "What will power!" he added.

A full list of supporters is on the Lions Club's web site, The club welcomes enquiries from all local pubs, clubs and businesses who want to help it raise funds for local causes.

Police seize alcohol in Maesteg and Caerau

MAESTEG and Caerau neighbourhood policing teams have been working together to reduce anti-social behaviour and underage drinking throughout their wards.

Since the start of the operation a number of young people were stopped and spoken to and a considerable amount of alcohol was seized from under-aged youths who were drinking the alcohol openly,

PC David Barry said: "We have had a very positive start to the exercise in tackling anti-social behaviour and underage drinking throughout the area and a number of similar operations will continue throughout the coming months."

ABOVE:(From left) PCSO Dave Johnson, PC Dai Barry, PCSO Kim Harris and PCSO Karl Smith with some of the seized alcohol.

Maesteg comedy

THE rafters at Maesteg Town Hall will be ringing with laughter when the Llynfi Valley Amateur Dramatic Society put on their latest production.

This time they have chosen the comedy *Try Anything Twice* by William Rocke.

Comedies are always popular with Maesteg audiences and the society hopes to get good support for its latest offering.

It is being staged from May 26-28 with curtain-up at 7.30pm.

Tickets are very reasonably priced at £4 on the first night, with concessions at £3.50p; and £6 with concessions at £5 on the other two nights.

Tickets are available on 01656 733269/735622, or pay at the door.

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Porthcawl Rotarians monitor locals' health

ABOVE: The full Rotary team with guests outside Trinity Church, Porthcawl.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

PORTHCAWL Rotarians recently spent a day inviting residents and visitors to have their blood pressure measured.

An annual event, this year a record number of 224 people popped into Trinity Church, Porthcawl, to avail themselves of the free test.

Of this number, 41 people – 17 men and 24 women – were advised to visit their doctor for follow up investigation.

A Rotary Club of Porthcawl spokesman said: "Hopefully, this work, which is in conjunction with the Stroke Association, will raise awareness of how important it is for people to have their blood pressure checked regularly.

"High blood pressure is a key risk factor for stroke, which can strike at any age, and is one of the top three causes of death and the single largest cause of disability.

"The Rotarians are extremely grateful to all the volunteers who worked throughout the day, especially the health care professionals who gave their time so freely."

BELOW: Coun David Deere, Consort to the Mayor of Porthcawl, having his blood pressure taken by State Registered Nurse and Mid Wife Dorothy Walters, under the watchful eye of Dr Colin Williams. Coun Rosemary Deere, Mayor of Porthcawl, Madeleine Moon MP and Steve Moon wait their turn.

ABOVE: The sandwich board man! The Rotary club brought back a centuries-old method of advertising the event to the public.

Wide range of speakers at council meeting

NEWS FROM COITY WI

THE Coity WI April meeting was opened by president Mary Poland, who welcomed four potential new members.

Preparations for the Glamorgan Show are ongoing and members were encouraged to consider their contributions to the various classes.

The newly formed luncheon club continues, and the table tennis taster day was voted 'brilliant' by those who took part. The walking group will be making their first walk of the season, weather permitting, on the May 10.

Vice-president Ann Mutton reported on the GFWI spring council meeting at St David's Hall when the speaker for the morning session was Mr Peter Bowen-Simpkins, consultant gynaecologist and Director of the London Women's Clinic.

After lunch, the surprise guest was Jamie Owen . A witty and self-deprecating speech preceded an unofficial launch of his new book, when Jamie was available for book-signing.

The guest speaker for the day was Ruth Jones of Gavin and Stacey. This very talented lady, opening her talk in the character of 'Nessa', soon won the audience with her modesty and a very interesting account of her career. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The speaker at the monthly meeting held at Coity Church Hall was Wendy Collie of Bella's Lingerie, Pontypridd. A trained coutouriere, Wendy was able to draw on long experience to simultaneously tease and teach us about the common mistakes we all make in choosing our lingerie. It was an illuminating evening for all present.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on May 26 at Coity Church Hall, when there will be a discussion on the Resolution for 2010 which will be followed by cheese and wine.

'Mr Post Office' calls it a day after 50 years

AFTER starting his career with the General Post Office nearly 50 years ago, Tony Sinnott, who is now the subpostmaster at RAF St Athan, has decided to call it a day.

To mark the occasion he was presented with a commemorative plaque by senior managers Angela Van Den Bogerd and Tony Jones, who are just some of the many people working for Post Office Limited that he has encouraged during his long and illustrious career.

Angela said: "Tony has had a great career stretching back nearly 50 years and I was delighted to be able to present him with this plaque to acknowledge his hard work and to personally thank him for his help and support in the early days of my career. He is a well known and respected person by many people in the business."

Mr Sinnott, from Caerau, started in the GPO in August 1960 where he was employed as a junior postman in nearby Maesteg.

In September 1964 he moved to work on the counter at the then head office in Court Road, Bridgend where he was later promoted to his first post in management in 1975.

He continued to climb the ladder and in October 1986 he was promoted to Post Office area manager.

However, 10 years later he retired from the Post Office Management team and took on the role of subpostmaster at the St Athan RAF base, which also includes managing postal deliveries to the local area.

In a response to the announcement of his retirement, Ian Edwards, Royal Mail's Director of Delivery, in Wales said: "I would like to thank Tony for his hard work and dedication in managing the mail services over the last 14 years, on the base. We would like to wish him a long and happy retirement."

Tony said: "I have seen a lot of changes since I started but I have had a brilliant time.

"I have been lucky to have worked with many, many great people and I have lots of happy memories."

"I would like to thank them all for their help and support, in particular Mel Evans who has worked behind the counter for me in the last three years. I am now looking forward to spending more time with my family, playing bowls and keeping fit."

Bryntirion PTA raffle winners

THE Bryntirion Comprehensive School Parent Teacher Association spring raffle was drawn on April 13.

The prize winners were:

£100 CASH (PTA Main Prize) (Tkt No 8013) Won by Louise Taylor, Broadlands;

Bottle of Whiskey (Grants) (Donated by Mrs K Strachan) (Tkt No 2465) Won by Wilson, Maesteg;

Pair of Earings (Masfina - RHIW Market) (Tkt No 7835) Won by Mel Hunt;

Set of Cook Books (Donated by Happy Hours Playgroup) (Tkt No 1182) Won by Jane Pike, Kenfig Hill;

Rug (Donated by Steve Richmond,Quality Carpets & Flooring-Laleston) (Tkt No 11040) Won by CPP Elec Ltd;

£15 Cleaning Voucher (Donated by The Caring Laundry-Laleston) (Tkt No 6153) Won by Callum Matthews, Penfai;

Bottle of White Wine (Donated by Mr & Mrs Thalayasingam) (Tkt No 1051) Won by Kissy Pritchard, Broadlands;

Tin of Roses (Donated by Sainsbury) (Tkt No 10366) Won by Luke Randall, Bryntirion;

Chocolate Liquers (Donated by Happy Hours Playgroup) (Tkt No 1554) Won by Joanne Griffiths, Cefn Glas;

Bottle of Vermouth (Anonymous) (Tkt No 1720) Won by J Williams.

Box of fruit creams (Donated by Pic'n'mix sweet shop-RHIW Market) (Tkt No 730) Won by S Deere, Raven Hill;

Box of Chocolate Truffles (Donated by Happy Hours Playgroup) (Tkt No 2228) Won by Dan Williams;

Old Spice aftershave pack (Donated by Mr & Mrs Sadd) (Tkt No 164) Won by R Allamby (Airborne Systems).

Scented Coat Hangers (Anonymous) (Tkt No 633) Won by Alison Pechrazzini.

Bucks Fizz (Anonymous) (Tkt No 8338) Won by C Westrop, Penfai.

Old Spice Toilletries set (Mr & Mrs Sadd) (Tkt No 10169) Won by Leah Brooks.

All prize winners will be contact directly. Money raised from the draw was £615 resulting in a £460 profit after costs of printing tickets and main prize.

Thanks you to all those you bought and sold tickets.

A special thanks to those of you who kindly donated prizes for the raffle.

Andrew Thalayasingam, (Chairman PTA)

Who wants to build what and where in the county borough?

Mrs EJ Edwards – **Ty Coch, Heol Spencer, Coity** – fell three trees (2 x ash, 1 x maple).

Porthcawl Town Council – **St John's Well, Beach Road, Porthcawl** – return ash and sycamore to pollarding cycles and reduce height of trees ((1978) OBC No 01).

Mr R Lewis – **2 Highfields, Brackla, Bridgend** – garage to side of house.

Mrs L James – **5 Church Street, Maesteg** – re-render the front, side and back of house (article 4 direction).

Mrs A Stroud – **land at 5 Sarn Hill, Sarn, Bridgend** – proposed new dwelling.

Ms A Ahern – **5 Priory Avenue, Bridgend** – erection of fence above boundary wall.

Mr and Mrs P Morgan – **side garden area 77 West Road, Porthcawl** – new detached dwelling.

Mr D Mellor – **49 Cwm Felin, Blackmill, Bridgend** – erection of sun room at rear of property.

Mr and Mrs D Griffiths – **rear garden, 13 Salisbury Road, Maesteg** – new detached dwelling.

Mr A Dowdall – **3 Greenwood Close, Litchard, Bridgend** – two storey extension to gable end.

Mr M Khaliq – **44 Heol Llan, North Cornelly, Bridgend** – c/u from empty lock-up shop to Indian takeaway and amendment to parking layout.

Mr E Ilhan – **Yummies, 102 Pisgah Street, Kenfig Hill** – relax condition of P/08/737/FUL to extend hours of opening until 12 midnight.

Ms D Lynch – **rear garden of 1 Jubilee Road, Bridgend** – detached dormer/chalet bungalow (two-bedroom).

Mr D Hughes – **19 Clos y Grug, Porthcawl** – rear extension.

Mr B Arnesen – **Graigwen, Hendre Road, Pencoed** – extension for therapeutic indoor pool with rooms over, rooms in roof space of dwelling and improvements.

Mr DJ Davies – **land at Waterton Lane, Waterton, Bridgend** – outline application for three dwellings (one detached and a pair of semi-detached).

Mr G Maund – **50 Heol Maendy, North Cornelly** – proposed extension to conservatory to form lounge at rear with pitched roof over garage and porch.

Mr P Stokes – **land adjacent to 38 Minffrwd Road, Pencoed** – new dwelling.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Au revoir, Mr Smith!

AND thank you for the many years you have represented the Vale of Glamorgan as our member of parliament.

Your constituents will remember how you have worked tirelessly for all the people of the Vale.

I am sure there are many who will join me in wishing you a happy and healthy retirement.

Community council

THE following matters were discussed at the Llangan community meeting on Monday, May 3:

Llangan community centre – faults in the new extension have been reported to the Vale of Glamorgan.

It has been reported that the benches at the community centre are in urgent need of repair or should be replaced.

Forthcoming events at Llangan community hall: A pub night is being arranged for May 15, including live music, from 7.30pm.

A fun day/fete will again take place on the Fferm Goch Green on July 31 from 12noon-8pm.

Good news

THE deep holes in the roads through the village of Llangan and Treoes are being repaired.

OGMORE NEWS IN BRIEF

A VACANCY has occurred in the Nantymoel ward of Ogmore Valley Community Council, after members disqualified Mark Spanswick for failing to attend six consecutive meetings. A public notice advertising the vacancy will now be published.

•A PETITION has been gathered in the Ogmore Valley calling for the late night bus service to the valley to be reinstated.

It was cancelled last November after drivers were targeted by yobs. Ogmore Valley Community council is backing residents in the fight to bring the buses back.

Police representatives at the last council meeting said that two special operations had been run in the valley to target this problem and 30 Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO'S) were given out to local youngsters as a result.

Police say that there have been no reported incidents since.

•THE argument about who is responsible for the clocktower at Pricetown Square rumbles on.

BCBC has said that the clock is not theirs and they are not liable for repairs.

However, Coun Ralph Shepherd, who now sits on BCBC and is a former council employee, has signed a statement that when he worked for the former Ogwr Borough Council, he maintained the clocktower on their behalf from 1982 to 1986.

•OGMORE VALLEY Community Council has agreed to purchase eight additional grit bins to locate around the valley.

These will cost £250 each. BCBC has contacted town and community councils to ask them to sponsor additional grit bins as a result of the bad winter weather and the demand for extra gritting.

The community council will locate two in Ogmore Vale, two in Blackmill and Lewistown; two in Nantymoel and two in Evanstown.

Gifted orchestra members perform at Margam Abbey

Bridgend county borough orchestra members.

MUSICALLY gifted senior members of Bridgend County Borough Youth Orchestra will be performing in Margam Abbey on Saturday, May 8 at 7.30pm.

The evening will feature string and jazz orchestras, harp ensembles and wind band, playing a varied programme ranging from an ABBA medley to the *1812 Overture*.

Bridgend County Borough Council's music service continues to thrive, with more than 1,600 children learning instruments in schools each week, and almost 300 attending weekly rehearsals.

Music co-ordinator, Jeff Ryan, said: "Many of the senior players playing in Margam Abbey have attended weekly rehearsals for most of their school lives.

"Learning to play an instrument has great benefits in all aspects of life. The discipline of study and performing together develops team spirit and self esteem.

" The high standard of the more advanced ensembles is due entirely to the dedication of our members over the years."

Tickets are priced at £6.50 (£3 concessions) and are available on the evening or by calling Jeff Ryan, music co-ordinator, on 01656 642658 (during office hours).

ABOVE: The line-up that provided an unforgettable performance!

Unforgettable Armed Man at Porthcawl

SPECTACULAR, breathtaking, wonderfully emotional and uplifting – these were some of the descriptions from members of the audience at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl, when a performance of *The Armed Man* by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins was staged.

Choristers from the Athenaeum Singers of Warminster and Cor Bro Ogwr joined forces for this performance, under the baton of their joint musical director Edwards Rhys Harry.

The evening proved to be a fantastic experience for both singers and audience. The combined choir of 170 had had just one rehearsal together that afternoon but blended together beautifully.

The conductor maintained a sense of drive and drama throughout and carried the singers through the many different moods of *The Armed Man* with great effect.

The choir was ably supported by The Scratch Brass Ensemble, organist Glenn Crooks and accomplished soloists Rhiannon Llewellyn, Rhiannon Thomas and Gareth Treseder.

The fine acoustics of All Saints' Church enhanced the sound quality for both the singers and the audience and the packed audience, which included First Minister Carwyn Jones, were treated to an unforgettable musical evening.

PADDY JERBURGH

COUNCIL'S NEW CHAIN OF OFFICE WILL COST £5,000

OGMORE Valley Community Council is to spend up to £5,000 on a new chain of office.

The existing chain is 'full', with no room to add the new names of its chairmen each year.

The council heard that to create an extra length on the existing chain to accommodate the additional names would cost up to £1,000 just to make the stamping dies needed to reproduce the links. The cost of the actual chain would be on top of that.

A new chain on velvet backing would start at about £2,400. The hand painted enamel pendant from the old chain is cracked and needs repair before it could be put onto the new chain. It will cost over £1,000 to repair.

Fattorini's, which is the specialist firm contacted by the council, said that the pendant is very valuable and needs to be stored in a proper block fitted case which will cost an extra £215.

If a new chain is purchased, the old chain would be fitted into a wall hanging display case at a cost of about £450.

The finance and general purposes committee recommended going for a new chain and this was confirmed at the full council.

The chain used by Ogmore was made after the former Ogmore and Garw Town Council split into a separate council for each valley in the 1990s.

The chain of office that had been used by the joint council, which was inherited from the former Ogmore and Garw UDC, has been put on display at Bryngarw House.

At the time of the split, all the assets of the former council were deemed to have gone onto the Ogmore Valley Community Council, which was said to be the residuary authority, but members voted against using the old chain and opted for a new one then.

Clerk Louvain Lake said that members had debated long and hard about spending this money, but in the end felt that as the chain was an asset belonging to the council, they should get the pendant repaired and commission a new chain.

No names have been added for some time and it was agreed to put on all the missing names to bring the new chain up to date.

Will you be having your say today?

Casting your vote today, Thursday 6 May, means you will be helping to choose the person who will represent YOUR community in parliament for up to five years.

The UK parliament makes decisions which affect our everyday lives and this is your chance to have a say on who represents you in Westminster. That's why it's vitally important to use your vote today.

If you are registered to vote here in Bridgend County Borough you will be in one of two constituencies - Bridgend or Ogmore. There are six candidates standing for each constituency and your vote will help decide which one will be your next MP.

All polling stations will be open today from **7am to 10pm** so that you can vote whenever is most convenient to you. Your poll card will tell you where your polling station is.

Voting is very straight forward but there will be staff at each polling station to answer any questions or provide any special assistance you may need to cast your vote.

Please use your vote and have your say today!

More information

You can get more information about voting by:

- Contacting Bridgend County Borough Council's Electoral Services team on 01656 643116
- Visiting the Electoral Services office in person at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend
- Going online at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND County Borough Council

www.bridgend.gov.uk

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

CENTRES GOOD FOR THE VALE

AS an ex-Barrian, I was pleased to read about proposals by two local groups to establish a Heritage Centre and an Arts Centre in the town.

Both initiatives are long overdue and would provide facilities that both Barry and the Vale are lacking. They would benefit the local community and visitors alike, as well as giving new life to redundant buildings.

I wish both groups every success, and hope that their proposals receive the full support of the population and of the planning and funding authorities.

Gillian Drake, Barry

'Don't forget the fulltime firemen'

COWBRIDGE Fire station celebrates its 50th year this month, well done! But anyone would think it has been run by retained crews judging by photos published of the retained firemen.

The station has been run by fulltime firemen for over for over 40 years and now all you hear about is the retained men. Are the public aware that there are still 13 fulltime firemen at Cowbridge Fire Station? They are the backbone of the fire station, because without them, the retained personnel wouldn't have a clue.

So let's see some support for our fulltime firemen and celebrate the station's 50th year by giving the full timers credit where credit is due; and not use the 50th anniversary as a recruitment drive for more retained, so that the fire service can get rid of the fulltime posts at Cowbridge.

(Name and address supplied)

Heavy drinking, glass smashing, litter louts... IS THIS A TOWN'S LEGACY?

MY attention was caught by a recent GEM headline – 'Whose town is this anyway?'

Obviously, it was a rhetorical question by letter writer M Stevens.

At the moment, the town of Llantwit Major is the domain of heavy drinking, glass smashing and litter louts whose deep sense of history is the legacy of a generation that got fed up with fighting the Bosch and decided to drink away their cares and worries, because it seemed like a good idea at the time.

The 21st century holds up a different challenge for the people of Llantwit Major to contemplate.

As the town was possibly the original seat of education in this country, surely to listen to the older, educated members of society with a wealth of knowledge, would seem to be the more sensible option.

I have it on good authority from people nearly twice my age, that they will only teach by example, and find it almost impossible to give direct advice – preferring, it would seem, to allow young people to learn by their mistakes.

It is, therefore, my contention that nothing has changed, except the fact that the population has probably doubled.

The youth are chomping at the bit, trying to create a town steeped in the history of an older generation who obviously (prematurely) overcelebrated the end of a war, which never really ended The town belongs to whoever wants to make it – you get what you want!

(Name and address supplied)

'Future of St Athan is in the balance'

THE St Athan project lies in the balance after the election, whatever the result.

The Strategic Defence Review means some hard choices, with scaling down of standing forces by 15-20 per cent predicted.

The projected number of trainees is far less than the original 6,000 figure; 2,700 was given at the public inquiry, which may shrink further to 2,200.

The MoD's fall-back option is said to use the Blandford, Dorset base, where the 4,000 units of accommodation and associated facilities (eating, sport etc) are more than sufficient.

Little new-build would be needed for service family accommodation, unlike the 473 units planned at St Athan at around £100 million.

Some 200 administrative staff there are to transfer to Metrix and move to St Athan.

If the tri-service training was sited at Blandford, the dislocation and costs would be avoided.

The MoD has no alternative plans for Blandford. Pre-election they agreed to leave most of the Army Information Systems (AIS) branch) there (48 out of the 53 jobs to stay).

None of the Vale of Glamorgan candidates mentioned the likelihood of St Athan's cancellation, but will the new MP deny this logic?

Max Wallis, Penarth

Five months for a parcel delivery

I ordered a parcel from ebay back in December 2009 by 1st Class postage – and after a few days I hadn't received it.

I contacted the seller and they kindly sent out a replacement, this time 1st class recorded which arrived next day.

Last week, I received the original parcel with the invoice inside dated December 2009. It has taken the Royal Mail postage service over five months to deliver a parcel posted in the UK to my address in Barry...

We all know letters go missing, but this was a Jiffy Bag with computer equipment inside.

Surely it should not take five months to deliver a parcel?

Jonathan Drake, Barry

Barry Island could be transformed...

PLANS for consultation on the future of Nells Point highlighted by Coun Traherne (GEM April 29) are to be welcomed only if ambitions for the future of Barry Island by the Vale Council are significantly raised.

The Island faces a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform it into an all-year-round, all-weather family tourist destination.

The council say the proposals for the Nells Point site are just those put forward by their consultants.

The underlying issue is what was the brief given to the consultants?

Have the consultants been given too low a target to aim for?

Further evidence of the council's low aspirations is in its recently-proposed tourism strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan and Barry Island.

This essentially focuses on catering for the day-tripper market; rather than realising the potential of Barry Island as one of the nearest beach resorts to Birmingham, and the first beach resort for English tourists along the M4.

We currently have potential redevelopment of the Waterfront, the former fairground site, and Nells Point, with no seemingly joined-up thinking between getting the maximum output and synergy from these developments.

The council should consult, not just on plans for Nells Point, but the whole challenge of transforming Barry Island into an attractive tourist destination – to provide a boost for the local economy and transform the image of the area.

We need a consensus on future development; but it has to begin at a much higher starting point than the current quick-fix being proposed.

Andy Green, Barry

Digital Switchover 'help is available'

I WAS sorry to read about the issues Patricia Price has been experiencing since digital switchover ('That unnecessary digital switchover', GEM letters page on April 22).

The Switchover Help Scheme has been helping older and disabled people in south Wales make the change to digital TV by giving practical help to convert one of their TV sets to digital in the run-up to switchover.

In south Wales, we have provided more than 40,000 people with easy-to-use equipment that suits customers' needs, installation of that equipment and a demonstration of how it works.

Importantly, once you have taken up our help and equipment, the Help Scheme also provides free aftercare for a year, which includes help with retuning.

If you aren't using Help scheme equipment, or aren't eligible for the scheme, you can still get advice on digital TV from Digital UK on 08456 505050.

Eligibility for the Switchover Help Scheme closed on April 30, but our customers will still be receiving aftercare for many months yet, with no extra costs.

Melfyn Clwyd Roberts (Switchover Help Scheme National Manager, Wales)

'Nightmare' digital television reception

I agree with your correspondent James Wild, Llantwit Major (GEM letters April 8), about the digital switchover as I have been having almost nightmare reception since the switchover.

I was watching the Masters golf on Sunday night and the contest was supposed to be screened until 12pm.

However, just as the most exciting part was reaching its climax at 11pm, suddenly the coverage was gone. I was confronted by world news and I could not get it back.

Since then, it has frozen on the image time after time particularly on the advertising channels.

Now I have had an amplifier digital box fitted and I am crossing my fingers but not holding my breath.

Mrs D E Coombes Herridge, Barry

'THANK YOU HELPLINE'

REGARDING Patricia Price's letter concerning digital switchover, I write in praise of BBC Helpline and am a 'happy' viewer.

I was terrified prior to the change and made my family's life a misery moaning why so many channels when we are unable to get usual ones?

Now I am a contented and selective viewer, mainly due to the 'Helpline' folk who made it easy for me.

They were kind and considerate at all times, no matter what time of day you telephoned them.

My picture before the switchover was temperamental and spasmodic now it is distinctly visible.

I reiterate my grateful thanks to all the "Helpline" team.

Well done.

Mrs JR Pooley, Barry

Good job!

WITH regard to the general election, Gordon Brown has, in my opinion, done a pretty good job under difficult circumstances.

For example, Christmas fuel payments and bus passes.

Mrs Thatcher privatised gas, electricity and water and bills have since gone sky high.

Let us not forget the miners. The way they were treated was a national disgrace.

The upper classes would not understand that, as they live on another planet to us.

John Kenefick, Barry

EMAIL YOUR NEWS

● *WE welcome your news, views and sports items.*

Please email them to the Editorial Department at:

ggem@internet-today.co.uk

SCOUTS CELEBRATE ST GEORGE'S DAY WITH A MARCH IN PORTHCAWL

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

THE Bridgend and District Scout Council held its annual St George's Day Service on Sunday, April 25, in Trinity Church, Porthcawl.

The parade assembled in the old Station Yard at the end of Dock Street under the direction of parade marshals, Peter Richards, Scout Leader, from Brackla, Steve Sloan, District Explorer Scout Commissioner, and Jerry Howells, Explorer Scout Leader, from Cefn Glas.

The parade was officially started by the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Jeff Tildesley.

Led by the flag bearers, the Scouts then marched up John Street to Trinity Church. Prior to entering Trinity Church for the service, the flag and banner bearers reassembled, where they were inspected by the guests of honour.

Dignitaries present included Coun Jeff Tildesley, and his consort, Mrs Audrey Thomas, Coun Rosemary Deere, the Mayor of Porthcawl and her consort, Coun David Deere, Coun Steve Smith, Mayor of Maesteg, Madeleine Moon, MP for Bridgend, Huw Irranca-Davies, MP for Ogmore, Christine Jordan, Scout District Commissioner, Bridgend, David Cross, Scout District Chairman, Bridgend, David Williams, Assistant Area Commissioner, Scouts.

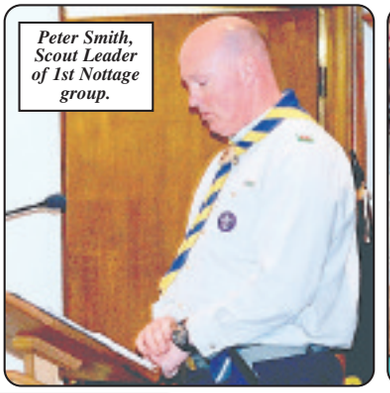
The officiating Minister was the Rev Michael Worsey and the organist at Trinity Church for the service was Michael Boyles.

The collection made during the service for 'Help for Heroes', amounted to £219.

The event organisers were Lynn Batters and Moira Batters, respectively Group Scout Leader and Cub Scout Leader, 1st Nottage Scout Troop.

The Scout parade was assembled by parade marshals Peter Richards, Steve Sloan and Jerry Howells, ready for the official start by the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Jeff Tildesley.

ABOVE: The Rev Michael Worsey welcomed the congregation at the service.



Peter Smith, Scout Leader of 1st Nottage group.

ABOVE: 1st Nottage Beaver Scouts renew their promise.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

EWENNY festival concert with Rodolfo Bonucci (violin) is at Ewenny Priory Church on Thursday, May 6 at 7.30pm.

BRIDGEND DEANERY

Mother's Union festival will take place at St Bridget's Church, St Bride's Major, on Tuesday May 11 at 7.30pm.

EWENNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The council is holding a tree planting ceremony on the grass verge outside Little Acre, Corntown, at 11am to mark the 65th anniversary of VE Day. *Afterwards coffee and tea will be served in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.*

VE Day 1945 was the end of hostilities in Europe and was celebrated throughout the country with street parties (although food was still on ration) and other festivities.

Commemorative pottery mugs made at Ewenny Pottery were given to all the children at the time (I remember it well).

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE COMMUNITY NEWS IN THE AREA

Sponsored walk

TYNYRHEOL Primary School, Llangeinor will be holding a sponsored walk to Bryngarw Park on Friday, May 21, to raise funds for IT equipment at the school.

The school would be grateful to any company that would like to sponsor it in its quest to keep up to date.

It would also like to thank Mrs Christine Jones, recently appointed as caretaker to the school, who, over the Easter break, painted all the outdoor furniture, which now looks pristine and smart for the summer term.

The hard-working PTFA is again holding a book fair at the school between May 17-21. Competitions are being organised for the pupils.

Church coffee

ABERKENFIG and District United Churches are organising a coffee morning at Sarn Community Centre (Life learning centre) on Saturday, May 8 between 10.30am-12noon.

Stalls will have items suitable for all ages. All money raised is being donated to the charity Christian Aid.

Charity gig

Mr Paul Booth, the headteacher of Ogmore Vale primary school, has informed me that the Ogmore Jets will be performing an after-school charity gig at the Ogmore Vale Conservative Club on Saturday, May 8.

Tickets are available at the school and cost £3 per person.

Quiz night

THE recent quiz night at St Bride's Church, Llansantffraid, raised £90 for the church funds, with two joint winners in Rev Olwen and Chris Ellis.

The following were prize winners in the raffle competition: Rev Stephen won a mobile phone, Beryl Parry a radio alarm and Chris Ellis a one-use camera.

Raema Gunton would like to thank everyone who supported her in this venture.

Ascension Day

ST David's Church, Wyndham, will hold a special Ascension Day sung Eucharist at the church on Thursday, May 13, at 7pm, followed by a fundraising fish and chip supper, with raffles and other events.

All proceeds will be donated to Christian Aid.

Contact Rev Stephen for LBA on 01656 720274; Rev David for Garw on 01656 840248; and Rev Elaine for Pen-y-Fai on 01656 651719.

Cross country

TONDU Primary School pupils are taking part in the cross-country competition for pupils in years 3 to 6 on Saturday, May 8, at Bryntirion Comprehensive School.

The PTFA for the school is organising a car boot sale on Saturday, May 15, in Lidl's car park between 9.30am-12noon.

Proceeds will help provide extra resources for the pupils. Everyone is welcome.

The school was represented at the recent Bridgend foundation phase conference on education for sustainable development and global citizenship by Iestyn Ellis, Katelyn Johnson and Iestyn Williamson.

The school was also represented in the recent Bridgend Rotary Club's Quizzical super team competition by Ben Pritchard-Davies, Jack Bailey, Cerys Osbourne, and Chloe Thomas.

The school will be organising the following after school clubs on Tuesdays between 3.30pm-4.30pm:

Mr Lewis will be in charge of Dragonsports, which will include coaching in cricket and tennis for pupils from years 2-6.

Miss O'Brien will be running the activity club which consists of cooking, art and drama for years 3-6.

On Tuesday lunchtime, Miss Watson will be coaching years 3-6 in basketball.

On Wednesday lunchtime, Miss Handley will be training the choir. At Thursday lunchtime, the environmental club for years 2-6 will be helped by Mrs Evans and Mrs Nott.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Choir's cheque

OGMORE Valley ladies hoir and society presented a cheque to the First Responders on April 28 for £3,900 at Ogmore Vale Welfare Hall.

The choir sang three songs – 'Mame', 'Sunny side of the street' and 'Play a simple melody'. Then came the presentation of the cheque by the choir's chairperson Mrs Mavis Davies to Mr Brian Davies the First Responders chairperson and co-ordinator; followed by a buffet.

Next year, the ladies will be collecting for Macmillan Nurses cancer care charity.

Charity concert

OGMORE Valley male voice choir will be performing at a concert in St David's Hall, Cardiff, on Saturday, May 8; all proceeds raised will go to the SAD's charity.

Male voice choir

MAESTEG "Gleemen" male voice choir has been rehearsing twice a week for months, including bank holidays, for the annual concert at Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, May 15, at 7pm.

Under the guidance of the choir's musical director Alun Hodges, and his assistant Anthony Bwye and accompanist Suzanne Hodges, the choir will be singing a varied programme in several languages.

Tickets can be obtained from Maesteg Town Hall, any choir member, or Clive on 01656 725399.

Horeb Baptist Chapel, Nantymoel

THERE is an interesting meeting presented by Mr Creighton Lewis on his time in Africa on missionary work, starting at 7pm today (May 6) at the chapel, which is in Dinam Close. Everyone is welcome.

BRIDGEND PROBUS CLUB NEWS

Medieval tour by 12th century carpenter!

MEMBERS of Bridgend Probus Club enjoyed a visit to the Cosmeston Medieval Village last Thursday.

They were conducted around by an archaeologist dressed as a 12th century carpenter, who gave an account of life in his day and took the party through the houses that have been discovered, reconstructed and refurnished on the site, bringing the place alive again.

Despite the first rain we have seen for several weeks, it was a fascinating and instructive few hours. After watching the large number of swans and ducks on the lakes, the party enjoyed lunch in a local restaurant before returning to Bridgend.

Bridgend Probus Club meets fortnightly in Caeffatri Inn, on Thursdays at 10.30am. The next meeting is on May 13, when Dr Jo Daniels will be speaking on evolution.

Some of the recent subjects covered by speakers were the hostels at Island Farm, mining in the Rhondda, and poems about valley life.

By sheer coincidence, on the day the volcano erupted in Iceland, our speaker was giving an illustrated talk on another volcano which erupted several years ago.

Future topics will include the development of newspapers, trading standards, the slave trade, and the life of an actor. At some of the meetings, wives of members also attend. New members are welcome.

IFOR DAVIES
(Social secretary, Bridgend Probus)

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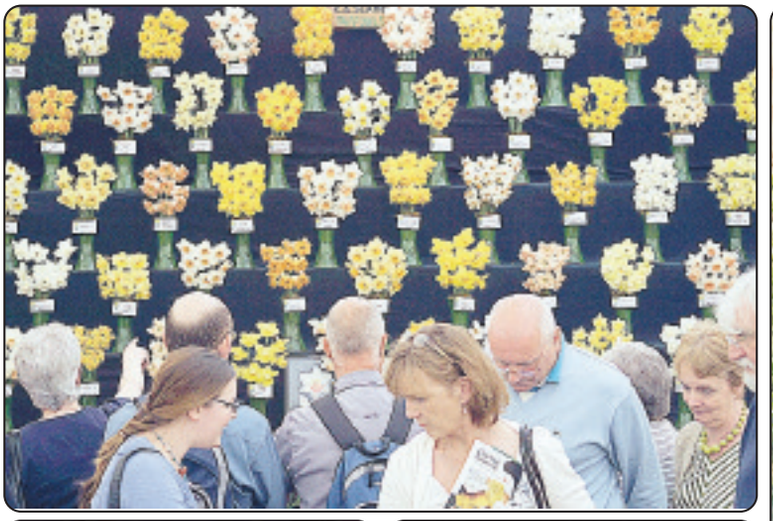
VIBRANT COLOURS MAKE CARDIFF RHS SHOW A RAVISHING FLORAL SPECTACLE



ABOVE: It was a good weekend for ice cream sales.

LEFT: 'Are you looking at my bird?'

'Anything you can do...'

WHEN Cardiff staged its own Royal Horticultural Show recently, it was a case of 'anything Chelsea can do...'

As visitors browsed through the Castle grounds, they had the chance to enjoy the vibrant colours and (sometimes) extravagant floral designs that are at the cutting edge of horticulture.

For local photographers, the event is a magnet, and ROBERT FISHER went along, on behalf of The GEM, to capture these colourful images of the day when Bute Park was transformed into a venue to rival Chelsea or Kew Gardens.

'Come and visit the beautiful Vale' – tourists are urged

Jane Hutt AM, Coun Anthony Ernest, John Winton and Mandy Davies.

VALE AM Jane Hutt opened the annual networking event of the Vale Marketing Group, chaired by Mandy Davies, who advises the Welsh Assembly Government on tourism, as well as supporting more than 100 local members running tourism businesses in the Vale.

The AM commented: "Marketing the Vale as a destination is vital to the tourism industry, but also to the prosperity of Wales as a whole.

"As we move out of recession, we can open the door to Welsh tourism as a holiday destination of choice starting with the Vale, the garden of Cardiff, the most beautiful and diverse constituency – from the attractions of Barry Island and Porthkerry Park to the wonders of the Heritage Coast and the serenity of the Vale villages and landscapes.

"I have seen much of the Vale by walking with Valeways or on family walks, and I hope we can build on the widespread love of walking with the first Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival, which takes place over the weekend of May 14-16.

"Looking at recent tourism statistics for the Vale, the spend per night ihere is higher than the rest of Wales, and the UK tourism share by region puts Wales higher than the south east or south west of England.

"The message is clear and strong – visit and holiday in the Vale!"

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The 21st Century Guide to Choosing a Divorce Lawyer

Choosing a family lawyer can be a daunting task. Before you reach for the Yellow Pages, **Kathryn McTaggart of Woolley & Co** family law specialists has a few tips to ensure that you find the best lawyer for you and your family.

Do you like them?

Most family lawyers are happy to have a short consultation with you free of charge. All should at least offer a telephone chat so you can get an idea of the type of person you will be dealing with.

You will need to work closely with your family lawyer, trust his or her judgement and guidance at times of deep emotional stress and confide information that you may not have even told your family and close friends. The best representation always comes with a relationship of mutual trust and respect. If you don't like them, it is not going to work. You will not get the answers to all your legal problems in 30 minutes but you will get the opportunity to 'interview' your lawyer.

How much will it cost you?

Rates will vary from firm to firm. As in life, you generally get what you pay for. Don't be afraid to ask questions about fees and how payments can be made. For example, like Woolley & Co, do they offer fixed fees or standing order payments to help you budget? Are there things you can do yourself to keep costs down? Who will be dealing with your case? It is sensible for routine tasks to be undertaken by a more junior lawyer (provided it is at a lower hourly rate) but it can be very disheartening to develop a relationship with your lawyer at a meeting only to find out later that your case is being dealt with by another member of the team. Ask what procedures are in place if you have queries about invoices. No one should be charged for wanting to know how their bill has arisen.

Are they any good?

Family law is constantly evolving and with a specialist practitioner you can ensure that he or she is not just on top of the law but also experienced in dealing with the complex emotional and practical problems that come with a separation. Asking for recommendations from family and friends can be a great way to find the right person but, if it's not possible, get online and look for lawyers like Kathryn who display client testimonials. It will give you a great insight into how they work.

Trust your own judgement

Do you have confidence he or she will be firm when necessary? Does he or she understand your values and priorities? Will he or she keep you focused on the future or just write letters that summarise your anger and disappointment? Will he or she take some of the worry out of making difficult decisions for you and your family? After all, you are paying good money for the service so it should be as pain free as possible.

Need help?

Kathryn offers a free half hour consultation – a perfect opportunity for you to decide whether you can work together.

Kathryn McTaggart is an experienced family solicitor based in South Wales. As well as being a fully qualified solicitor Kathryn is a trained Collaborative Lawyer.

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NEWS FROM POSITIVE IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

And now for something completely different..!

I HAVE often remarked, in these little bulletins, on what a friendly band Positive Image Photographic Society is.

As a relatively new member (this is only my second season with PIPS), I was quite surprised when our programme secretary, Bernard Brown, offered me the opportunity to take a slot as the speaker for the last evening of this season, but that is typical of this friendly little group.

There is nothing quite like having a good laugh with a bunch of like-minded friends and on April 15 I had a ball – we all had a ball!

When I first moved to Barry, I started taking photographs of details of buildings we pass regularly.

The town is blessed with some wonderful architecture. I was reworking a quiz I devised when I lived in Swansea and which actually raised a significant amount for local charities.

With the advent of digital photography – and its freedom from the expense of buying film – I could go to town on the new version of 'How Well Do You Know Barry?'

I had great fun out and about taking the pictures for a special version for 'PIPS' – I have to admit, a more difficult version, given that photographers are supposed to be more observant!

I had even more fun eavesdropping on the deliberations of the teams trying to identify landmarks, buildings, clocks, places of worship, and pub signs from cryptic details.

It was obvious from the banter that ensued, that my fellow members were having as much fun as I was and we finished the 2009-2010 season having a good laugh.

At the end of the night, it was life president, Bernard Brown, who surprised us all, by having the most right answers. Especially as he was a team of one because he came in late, having slipped out to the shop for milk for the coffee.

Bernard not only made the highest score but, having failed to recognise a single pub sign, identified every single place of worship – his mother would be so proud!

Positive Image Photographic Society will be in recess for the summer. New members will be sure of a very warm welcome in September when we will be meeting again at 7.30pm on alternative Thursday evenings at St Baruc's Church, Phyllis Street, Barry Island.

Further details of the society are on our website at www.positiveimagebarry.org.uk. The date of our first meeting in September and details of the 2010-11 season's programme will be posted on the website as soon as they are available.

DAVID ALEXANDER

St Helen's Church, Wyndham Street.

William IV.

Sir Samuel Romilly

Tabernacle Welsh congregational on King's Square.

Volunteers

THERE will be a Vale Volunteer Bureau outreach surgery at Llantwit Major library on Monday, May 10 from 10am-12pm with the Community Transport Association.

For further information, contact Joe on 01446 421782 or visit www.vvb.org.uk

Fibromyalgia Support

THE Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, May 11.

Contact group leader Barbara Clissett on 0845 345 5813 for further details. Calls are charged at standard rate.

Youth orchestras are on the move

TWO established youth orchestras are moving to the Vale to give more talent in the area the opportunity to make great music.

Starting yesterday (Wednesday) the Cardiff and Vale Music Service (CAVMS) orchestras will be rehearsing in St Cyres Comprehensive School, Penarth.

Previously based at the Cathedral School, Llandaff, these talented young orchestras will be welcomed to their new home by conductor Grant Llewellyn. Grant is a local resident (although he does the bulk of his work in the USA) and will be taking both senior and training orchestras for a special rehearsal later this term.

New members are welcome and can have the first term free! Fees (normally £40 per term) will be waived for any young musicians who wants to give it a try. The training orchestra welcomes all students with grades 1 to 4 without audition. The senior orchestra accepts students of approximately grade 5 and above by audition.

The senior orchestra has a regular exchange programme with a school in Chicago. They will be hosting them next Easter and making their fourth visit to Chicago during the Easter break of 2012.

In addition, regular local concerts are performed in venues such as St David's Hall and the Coal Exchange.

For more information, telephone 02920 891231 or visit www.cavmsorchestras.co.uk.

Vale stats

A NEW way to access a range of statistics and indicators across the Vale has been launched by the Local Government Data Unit.

InfoBaseVale is a new website that gives easy access to a wide range of statistics and indicators for each area within the Vale on themes including people, economy, education, health, housing and crime. InfoBaseVale is developed, supported and hosted by the Local Government Data Unit, Wales.

See more at http://vale.infobasecymru.net/

TY HAFAN'S APPEAL FOR SPARE PLANTS

LAST year, for the first time, Ty Hafan, the family hospice for young lives, ran a gardening stall at its popular fun day which proved to be a huge success.

Sales amounted to just over £700, which gave a real boost to funds raised on the day.

Carol Jenkins from Ty Hafan, said: "The children and parents spent many a happy hour last year planting up the hanging baskets and pots which were then sold on the day.

"This year, we will have been unable to grow our own bedding plants and shrubs, so we are asking if keen local gardeners have a few plants to spare that they could donate for the fundraising effort."

A keen gardener herself, Carol is aware that many gardeners tend to grow and pot more plants than they actually need, so this year you could help to raise funds and make a difference to the lives of children and families who use Ty Hafan.

Anyone interested should telephone Carol on 029 2053 2200 or drop them in to the hospice on Hayes Road, Sully.

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Business as usual as Wales breaks new ground in the drive for better services

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by ***Jane Hutt AM*** **(Minister for Business and Budget)**

AS Assembly Government business continues throughout the general election campaign, there are yet more policy developments which are receiving support, such as the action promoted last week by the Health Minister to address the problems caused by alcohol misuse and abuse.

This can blight the lives of young people, as well as causing many problems from nuisance to violence both domestic and in the street.

I have been responding to many calls for assistance with neighbourhood nuisance of this kind, which can get worse as the weather gets better and as people head out to enjoy the sunshine which can be great, but very difficult for the local community if too much alcohol accompanies the outings.

We are funding the Community Safety partnerships to address these problems and 'alcohol free' zones in parks and in open spaces are proving effective. We need to listen to residents about the problems they are dealing with often at the weekends and during holiday periods.

Our children and young people are a credit to us and we are investing in their future with the announcement last week by the Deputy Minister for Science, Innovation and Skills of the establishment of a National Science Academy. This will promote the take-up of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM subjects) to ensure that our young people are well equipped to gain the skills and qualifications we need in the Welsh economy and support the industries and technology of tomorrow.

The Academy will focus on education in STEM subjects from the early years through to further and higher education, and will be guided by our first Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales, Professor John Harries from Imperial College, London.

Techniquest will play a part, as will the STEM champions, who are all eminent in the STEM areas of research and industry, with a new STEM mentor service to support these champions in playing their role to promote an interest in science at every level of education, as well as in the community.

The statement issued by the Minister highlighted the exciting role the new National Science Academy will play in:

- promoting a positive image of STEM subjects to the public.
- highlighting Welsh successes and leading edge research capability.
- promoting good practice via case studies.
- providing a conduit for reliable learning and careers information.

We need to develop these skills, particularly in technology, as digital technology is already revolutionising the way we handle day-to-day dealings with banks, travel, retail – as well as our own personal communications.

We need to be up-to-date in the same way with our public services and we are developing a new Welsh Public Service ICT Strategy to make sure we can do this. 'My Health on Line' is now developing to enable patients to book appointments with their GPs and order repeat prescriptions on line.

We also need to make sure that this does not exclude people who are not 'on line' and do not have access to their own home computers, by providing more public access points such as the library facilities in King Square, Barry, which has an excellent citizen take-up.

Last week, I announced a new round of 'Invest to Save' projects which moves Wales further on in our 'efficiency and innovation drive'. One of the successful projects to receive investment was the world leading Public Sector Broadband Aggregation Network (PSBA) by assisting up to 1,000 new public sector connections to the network and providing access to broadband, voice, video and data services at a reduced cost – typically, a reduction of around 20 per cent in ongoing costs.

We are also pressing ahead with the opportunities for the public sector to increase the take-up of xchangewales 'procure to pay' using ICT to improve collaborative procurement for our public services.

This will also benefit the private sector, particularly SMEs in Wales.

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Parc le Breos, and a 3,500-year-old burial chamber...

TWELVE walkers joined Joy, Bracken and Nick for a trip down to Parkmill on Gower where the Le Breos family, who were granted sovereignty of Gower by King John in 1203, established their estate.

Parc le Breos is a deer park of around 500 acres on land to the west of Parkmill. It was used for deer hunting and military training and the water-powered corn and saw mill at the nearby Heritage Centre was part of the development.

It was a toll mill and local farmers were ordered to bring their corn for grinding and then were expected to pay dues to the estate.

The group crossed the river bridge and climbed through woods that were carpeted with delicate wood anemones, but the expected wild garlic was still in tight bud following the cold winter that has delayed spring flowers.

Emerging onto a lane, they climbed steeply and followed a bridleway near the golf course to Southgate where a path around the school led them through fields to eventually emerge near the coast.

Walking through Southgate, they crossed Pennard Burrows golf course and a short climb led them to the ruins of Pennard Castle.

The castle, perched on the cliff edge high above the Pennard Pill River, usually has gorgeous views across Three Cliff Bay and Penmaen. However, a thick sea mist was rolling in and totally obscured views.

Morning coffee was taken inside the ruins of this 12th century limestone and reddish coloured sandstone castle that was abandoned in the 14th century because it was overpowered with sand.

Then, slithering down a huge sandy dune, the group made their way across Three Cliff Bay and the Pennard Pill by means of stepping stones, probably a relic of a clapper style bridge constructed initially by the Normans.

A steep climb up through a primrose-covered narrow sandy path led them to Penmaen Burrows and a pleasant walk along the cliff top with a cooling breeze, where the lovely Oxwich Bay was still under the mist, before the descent to Nicholaston Burrows.

Entering Nicholaston Woods, they stopped for a late lunch on a bridge that crosses the Nicholaston Pill River before continuing through this ancient woodland where the pretty white flowers of the wild garlic paved the edges of the path and filled the air with its scent.

A short road climb led them to the hamlet of Perriswood which nestles into the side of Cefn Bryn, the five-mile old red sandstone ridge, known as the backbone of Gower.

A gradual and easy climb up Cefn Bryn over grassy common land led them to the highest part of their route at 186-metres (609 feet).

By now the mist was beginning to clear slightly, affording them their first views of Oxwich and Three Cliff Bay as they walked the ridge towards Penmaen, before descending and following a track that led to woodland at the rear of Parc le Breos.

Entering the flat valley on their way back, the group made their way past Parc le Breos burial tomb. This ancient roofless partly restored burial chamber dates back to 3,500BC and has a central passage with two pairs of chambers. It was discovered in 1869 when workmen were digging in the area for road stone, and various items of pottery and animal and human skulls were later excavated.

On May 8, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for a 7-8-mile moderate walk at Southerndown and Castle-upon-Alun; contact Val W. on 01446 734925.

On May 13, the popular summer evening walks begin. Meet at 7pm at All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry for a 3-mile easy walk in the Porthkerry area; contact Val W. on 01446 734925.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102. **JOY STRANGWARD**

AM discovers dream charity – *next door!*

The AM with Martin Harris of Follow your Dreams.

WHEN Vale AM, Jane Hutt, met Martin Harris at his High Street office in Barry, she discovered an amazing charity operating right on her doorstep.

The 'Follow your Dreams' charity raises awareness as well as funding and sponsorship for people with learning disabilities. The charity sponsors individuals to take part in the Special Olympics, as well as other local training and competitions in sport and drama.

"I was particularly impressed with the support given by local businesses to the 'Follow your Dreams' charity to help empower young people with learning disabilities to reach their full potential in the arts, drama, music and sport," the AM reported.

Follow your Dreams is at 26 High Street, Barry CF62 7EB (telephone 01446 739452).

Cycle ride for charity

Barry College team getting ready for the Barnardo's South Wales on Your Bike ride. Come the day, they will all have bikes.

TEN students and staff from Barry College will take part in Barnardo's 38-mile sponsored On Your Bike ride, through the Vale of Glamorgan on May 16.

Barry College assistant head of construction David Davies, wood trades tutor Ken Allen, brickwork lecturer Paul Sebburn, part-time brickwork lecturer and Sue James, who works in the college coffee shop, will be joined by five construction students.

CCTV ARRESTs

CCTV operated by the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with two arrests in the week ending May 2.

It contacted the police on eight occasions, with two arrests made for theft at Holton Road on May 1.

Rhoose Lifeguards in 82-mile marathon swim

ON April 27, the Rhoose Surf Life Saving Club held an all-night sponsored swim in the swimming pool at the Fontygary Leisure Complex, Rhoose.

The swim was started at 9pm by the Nipper section of the club. They were joined later by members of the junior section and the two teams swam alternately through the night.

A small team of Masters' members swam between 1am and 2am, giving the younger members time to eat and rest. The Nipper Section took over the swim on Sunday morning until 9am.

A massive 5,300 lengths (just over 82 miles) were completed, a fantastic achievement.

Alan Wadey swam 448 lengths throughout the night, and Miff Connelly swam 302 lengths!

Thank you to the coaches and members of the Rhoose Lifeguards, who gave up their Saturday night/Sunday morning to keep watch over the swimmers.

A big thank you to the Fontygary complex

and staff for their continued support of the Rhoose Lifeguard Club in allowing us to use the pool overnight and to everyone who kindly sponsored the children.

The final figure raised will be published once all the forms are collected.

It is hoped that much-needed equipment can be purchased for the training of the young lifeguards of the future to help keep our beaches safe.

ELAINE EDGERTON

ABOVE:
The young members of the Rhoose Surf Life Saving Club swam overnight to raise funds to pay for new equipment.

ABOVE:
One of the young swimmers who took part in the all-night sponsored swim puts in a big effort at Fontygary Leisure Complex,

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Get those creative juices flowing!

FOR the third year running, the VWBN goes walkabout!

Walking and talking get the creative juices flowing and also release 'happy endorphins'. It's a great way to network, too!

The walk will be short and not strenuous, taking in one of the Vale's best kept secrets – the Aberthaw nature reserve.

We start and finish at the lovely Blue Anchor Inn.

Walking is not compulsory – and you won't be alone if you decide to relax and network in the comfort of the Blue Anchor.

So, if you are a bit stuck for the next inspired business decision, put on your trainers and join us for a very relaxed and different sort of networking evening!

Please email members@vwbn.org.uk for more information and to book.

Guests and new members are very welcome. This event is free!

For more information about the benefits of networking and joining the VWBN, please visit www.vwbn.co.uk

Vale Women's Business Network

Walk, Talk and Network for FREE!

Wednesday, 19th May 2010

at The Blue Anchor Inn, East Aberthaw, Vale of Glamorgan.

From 6pm onwards.
Guests and non-members are most welcome!
Please e-mail members@vwbn.org.uk to book

www.vwbn.org.uk

Visitors feel the Forse...

THE under-13 Vale Wanderers played their last 15-a-side game of the season at The Rec against a well-organised touring side from Longlevens, Gloucester.

The visitors opened the scoring after 10 minutes when some sloppy defending allowed a forwards try, which went un-converted.

Longlevens failed to use the elements and spent the next 15 minutes in their own 22, defending some strong runs from the Wanderers forwards, again led by the outstanding Rhys Forse.

Eventually the pressure told and outstanding No 10 Theo Richards went over wide out to bring the scores level. He converted his own try with a very tough kick directly in to the wind.

From the re-start, the home team froze and allowed the visitors No 8 to collect the loose ball and score a converted try under the posts. The Wanderers came straight back at Longlevens and were unlucky not to reply.

However, a knock on deep in the visitors' 22 led to a scrum from which the visitors No 8 picked up and went the length of the field for a fine solo try. As the half time whistle went, Longlevens led 17-7.

The second half was a much closer affair, with only one try coming from the visitors. The Wanderers' coaches took the opportunity to introduce their massed replacements to the fray. Lewis Bracher, Gareth Jones, Elliot Ponting and Llantwit under-12s fly-half Iestyn Jones all came on to replace key players and all impressed in the closing stages.

The Wanderers spent long periods of time in the Longlevens 22, but once again poor options and superb defence meant that the visitors did not concede in the second half. Final score, Vale Wanderers 7 Longlevens 22.

The Vale Wanderers only came together this season, made up of boys from Llantwit Major, Dinas Powys and Sully.

The team have worked extremely hard and can look forward to next season with a great deal of optimism.

The coaching team would like to thank the players and parents for all their encouragement and support.

TJ

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Fresh produce supply unaffected by air shutdown

THE recent air shutdown may lead to a "scarcity of some items on the shelves" according to the Freight Industry Association, as thousands of tonnes of fresh produce rotted and was unable to reach its destination, causing serious problems for growers and works overseas.

This demonstrates the unsustainable nature of our food supply, according to award-winning local vegbox company Riverford Organic.

"It seems mad that we should rely on air freight to get food onto our plates and that chaos shows just how unsustainable the food distribution chain is," said Chris and Alison Moruzzi, who deliver Riverford vegboxes to families in the Port Talbot, Bridgend and Vale areas.

"We have a policy of never air freighting so any shutdown won't affect availability for our customers.

"We can grow so much in this country, with veg like purple sprouting broccoli, cauliflower, spring onions, leeks and rhubarb in season right now. It just doesn't make sense that we should fly in baby sweetcorn and pineapple chunks from around the world to feed ourselves.

"We work closely with some growers overseas who provide us with things like bananas and oranges that don't grow here, and because we import the produce by sea, our growers won't be vulnerable to any problems of waste and rotting produce."

They suggest that an ideal solution would be to consider a local vegbox scheme. "If you're not green-fingered yourself, now is a good opportunity to find a local vegbox scheme that grows its own instead. With beautiful UK asparagus just coming into season, will you really miss baby sweetcorn anyway?"

Riverford has never air freighted any produce and works with overseas growers over the long term to protect them from the vulnerabilities of the global distribution chain.

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ESTABLISHED in Barry since 1979, Jeff Lloyd Solicitors is a general practice with an emphasis on conveyancing, probate, lasting power of attorney, wills and family.

A spokesman explained: "We have aimed to maintain our friendly approach to law, while adopting a fast and efficient method of service.

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YOUTH THEATRE TO PERFORM A CLASSIC AND TELL THE TALE OF SWEENEY TODD

ABOVE (left to right):
Charlotte Bruton, Rashida Ali and Mel Stevens trying out one of Mrs Lovett's comic songs – and it was Mel who got the role.

ABOVE:
The cast rehearsing the opening number.

THE Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) has chosen one of the most challenging musicals ever written, Sweeney Todd, as its main show this year, and the cast are now hard at work rehearsing for its July opening.

The show, regarded as one of composer Stephen Sondheim's masterpieces, is a unique mix of horror, comedy, social history, revenge, madness, cannibalism (nearly forgot that one!) – with a number of brilliant but difficult stage numbers to tackle.

The GEM asked two Bryntirion Comprehensive School students, Siobhan Sullivan and Rebecca Smith, to go along and observe the final stages of the audition process.

Was it like the X-Factor or 'The Dorothys'?

Well, according to Siobhan and Rebecca, it was very different...

ABOVE (left to right):
Jack Davies, Jack Gillard, David Garner and Scott Dale were all interested in playing the lead role of Sweeney Todd – and it was Scott who was finally chosen.

Scott Dale and Luke Bevan rehearsing as Sweeney and Judge Turpin. Luke was later cast as Joanna's love interest, Anthony.

ROGER BURNELL'S adaption of the infamous story of *Sweeney Todd*, the demon barber of Fleet Street, is set to be "one of the best shows we have ever done", according to many members of the Bridgend Youth Theatre.

This definitely appeared to be true through the raw talent available in the shape of the young cast.

Also, the show will have a complicated stage set, including a mechanical barber's chair, professional costumes from London and two professional vocal instructors, so naturally expectations of the play are considerable.

Tensions were running high during the final auditions, yet the enthusiasm and warmth of the group shone through their nerves.

Roger calmed the excitable youths, with a warm up exercise aimed to ease them into the mind set of the roles.

The group were instructed to lie on the floor while Burnell regressed the actors' minds to a vision of the dark side of Victorian England.

Now in character, they rose to perform a very intense and sinister rehearsal of the opening scene.

The acting alone was enough to send shivers down your spine, but when combined with their cutting rendition of 'The demon barber of Fleet Street', it left us awestruck, biting out nails and wanting more.

Josh Daniels, a BYT member, noted "the play is extremely dark and will be a challenge for all of us."

This feeling seemed unanimous when the auditions began. Prospective leading roles took turns to sing and act out parts of the play, vying to show their artistic capabilities.

Each performer offered his or her own take on the characters of Sweeney Todd, Mrs Lovett, Judge Turpin and other leading parts, making Roger Burnell's decision a difficult one.

However, his final decisions offered an insight into the direction he wished to take the play.

However, the talents of the hopefuls who did not get cast in main roles cannot be underplayed, and we can be assured that the entirety of the play will be brimming with talent.

The auditions alone have left us secure in the knowledge that the performance will be impressive, especially as we have only seen the play in its primary stages.

We definitely have a lot of faith in what is to come from the standards we witnessed. Our opinion is mirrored in those of not just Roger Burnell but the entire cast, especially when the main parts had been announced.

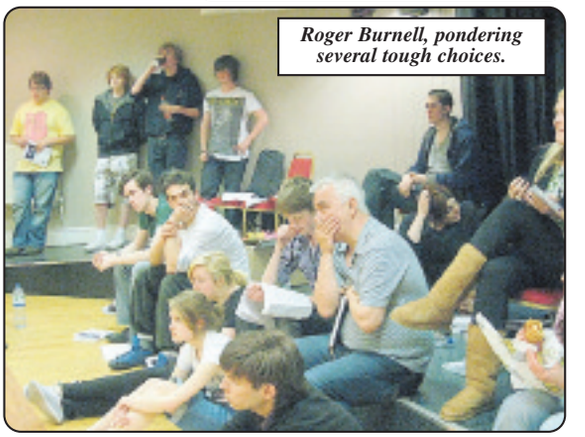
The atmosphere among the group was mixed; tears and laughs were shared, but the "big family" of the youth theatre was as close as ever.

"Oh my God I'm so excited!" exclaimed an overjoyed Mel Stevens upon receiving the part of Mrs Lovett.

It was clear, even from our brief peek that *Sweeney Todd* is a play not to be ignored, and a play to be eagerly anticipated!

ABOVE: The opening scene in Sweeney Todd is one that jolts the audience back in their seats, and the cast are aiming to make the most of it.

ABOVE: Trying out for the role of the sweet young heroine, Joanna, were Amelia Jones, Rashida Ali, Harmony Miller and Cerys Rowlands. In the end, the part went to Rashida.



Roger Burnell, pondering several tough choices.

ABOVE: The SWARM tempting trainees of No 4 SofTT trainees with some homebaked goodies.

Local MoD base gets baking for Ty Hafan!

PERSONNEL working at the MoD St Athan base were treated recently when members of the St Athan SWARM social club carried out a station-wide cake sale.

The ladies of SWARM are taking part in the Ty Hafan Sleep Walk in Cardiff and the idea of the cake sale was twofold – to raise awareness of the work that Ty Hafan does for families in Wales, and to boost the fundraising that the ladies have already done.

Diane Jones, wife of the CO of 4SofTT, has seen at first hand the work that the hospice does with families when she visited last year.

Diane said: "Ty Hafan is an amazing place. It is staffed by teams of dedicated people who work so hard for the families who go there. It is a wonderful facility which is self-funded and is why it is so important that people not only understand what they do, but that they realise how important it is for us to support them."

Diane concluded: "I have never seen so many cakes in one place! The response we had was wonderful.

"I even had someone knock at the door to say she had heard we were doing a cake sale and she had baked some cakes.

"Thanks to everyone who baked and bought, the sale was a great success and, we raised an additional £300."

The V-POD youth bus takes to the streets

LEFT: Young people in the area have played a crucial role with some fresh ideas.

V-POD is the latest multimedia youth provision running pilot activities within the Vale.

The V-POD is a single-decker bus specially converted to deliver activities and services for young people.

It is operated by Vibe Experience Ltd, a local voluntary youth organisation in partnership with the council's Youth Service and will be stopping at locations across the Vale and all young people are welcome.

On board are i-mac computers, internet, Xbox, PS3s, Wii, DJ mixing decks, Bose surround sound, plasma screens, DVD player, disco lighting, chillout area and much more!

The V-POD can park up in lots of different locations, especially in areas where there is no other youth provision or activities.

There will be professional tutors running creative, multimedia, music workshops, as well as qualified youth workers to provide information and activities on youth issues, such as good citizenship, community respect, healthy lifestyles and anti-social behaviour.

Sy Joshua of the Vale youth service said: "We aim to use the V-POD as a platform to complement the existing youth provision and undertake informal activities and workshops in areas of little or no youth provision during school holidays and weekends.

"We have now entered the pre-launch phase, trialling operations and organising previews. We aim to launch the V-POD in June 2010, as we are still waiting to hear about funding applications which will support its operation."

Young people have been heavily involved throughout the development of the project. More than 2,000 young people in the Vale have helped to provide ideas and concepts for the overall design and functionality of the V-POD.

Dominique Le Sauteur of Vibe Experience said: "It's fantastic to see the V-POD piloting activities for young people as part of the pre-launch plan.

" The project has taken a number of years of research, planning and consultation, and young people in the Vale have played a huge role."

LEFT: The specially adapted V-POD bus takes to the streets.

Valeways highlights the walking festival

THE Millennium Heritage Trail is a 63-mile long trail created by Valeways, that takes in 6,000 years of beauty, culture and history in the picturesque Vale.

As part of the walking festival, two treks are available that sample this trail.

On Saturday, May 15, at 10 am, there is an 11-mile walk covering the first stages of the Millennium Heritage Trail to St Nicholas, before heading to St Georges and crossing the River Ely back to St Fagans.

The route takes in delightful villages, passes through a battlefield site, holy well, ancient church, ruined castle and one of Wales' famous prehistoric sites in Tinkinswood burial chamber.

On Sunday, May 16, at 10 am, there is a seven-mile walk in what is known locally as the 'Border Vale,' an area that extends from the Vale into Rhondda Cynon Taff.

Most of the walk is through elevated limestone country of considerable attractiveness.

The walkers will pass close to two churches, two historic houses, walk through interesting grounds and around the charming Talygarn Lake with its abundant wild fowl.

The return journey wends its way through woodland and open fields.

Booking is essential.

Visit www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk for the full programme and online booking.

Phone bookings and enquiries can be made by calling Valeways on 01446 749000 (Monday - Thursday, 9am-1pm).

PACT meetings

DYFAN PACT, Barry Comprehensive School, May 10 at 6pm.
BARUC PACT, Barry Island Community Centre, May 12, at 7pm.
CADOC PACT, Palmerston Community Centre, May 12, at 7pm.
ST ATHAN PACT, The Gathering Place, May 11 at 7.30pm.
PENLLYN Coffee & Chat meeting, The Red Fox, Penllyn, May 12 at 11am.
PENDOYLAN Community Council meeting, Pendoylan School, May 13 at 7.45pm.
PLYMOUTH PACT surgery, Brockhill Way, next to the Spar, May 20 between 2pm and 4pm.

Roadworks weekly report

Plassey Street, junctions with Glebe Street, Ludlow land, Ludlow Street and Arcott Street, Penarth – *carriageway width restrictions.*
Pontypridd Street - junction with Mount Pleasant – *footway restriction.*
Gladstone Road Bridge to the Waterfront – *temporary traffic control.*
Windsor Road, near junction with Bridge Street, Penarth – *temporary traffic control.*
Windsor Road, junction with Plassey Street, Penarth – *traffic management.*
A4055, Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys near Cadoxton River Bridge – *temporary traffic control.*

Dancing to help the children with cancer

YOUNG dancers from YDance joined CLIC Sargent's nationwide campaign, supported by the Royal Academy of Dance street dance competition while raising money for children with cancer.

Practice-a-thon Dance, is a the national fundraising initiative run by children's cancer charity, CLIC Sargent, which sees students getting sponsored to dance, or holding their own dance events.

Emma Mallam, Dance Co-ordinator of Motion Control Dance Programme said: "We're delighted to be supporting Practice-a-thon Dance. The students have really got behind the idea and are very enthused about practising.

"By doing what they love best, they're not only improving their dance skills, but they're also helping children and young people with cancer".

HISTORY COMES ALIVE FOR WHITSUN VISITORS TO MARGAM COUNTRY PARK

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

MARGAM COUNTRY PARK in Port Talbot hosted a 'Fortress Wales' event over the Whitsun Bank Holiday, May 2-3.

It gave visitors a chance to step back in time and see how people lived – and fought – in ages past.

Re-enactment groups attending the show included the Western Front and the Confederate and Union Re-enactment Society.

People were also able to browse the trade stands and craft stalls that were on site.

Out and About with The GEM

'Fabulous' acts lined up for the Mount Sorrel

THE Best Western Mount Sorrel Hotel in Barry is gearing up for the summer with some fabulous acts to cheer everyone up and get people into the party mood.

A spokeswoman said: "On May 15, we have a Neil Diamond night, with a Stars in Your Eyes winner.

"It will be a high quality, entertaining evening with all Neil Diamond's top hits such as *Sweet Caroline*, *Love on the Rocks*, *Forever in Blue Jeans* and *I'm a Believer*.

"There will be a great spread laid on – and people could arrange a surprise birthday party for a family member or loved one, with an overnight stay for £30 for ticket holders.

"If people stay for the night, it saves them a taxi ride home and we even throw in a swimming pool pass so people can have an invigorating swim after the party the night before.

"Future acts will be a Beach Boys evening and indoor barbecue, Boogie Nights with a 70s themed menu – so get your flares out of the attic – and coming soon the magic of a Freddie Mercury tribute night."

For more information about any of the summer events at Mount Sorrel, call 01446 740069 or go to www.bw-mountsorrel-hotel.co.uk.

Bears on alert for parachute jump

St Cadoc's Church (Old village), Cadoxton, Barry is once again holding a sponsored Teddy Bear parachute jump on Sunday, May 23, at 2pm.

Each participating bear will undergo a medical in the state of the art first aid tent prior to their jump to ensure they are fit to fly, and on safe landing will be awarded a well deserved certificate of bravery.

All parachutes are provided. There will be a prize for the best dressed child's and adult's bear. So if you have a bear that would dare, sponsor forms are now available from St Cadoc's (Old Village) church, Cadoxton, Barry, or telephone 749689. The event will also include a barbeque.

Shoebox

THE parishioners of St Cadoc's and St Mary's churches take part in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas child shoebox appeal, and last year were able to send more than 500 gift filled shoeboxes to needy children in Eastern Europe.

For some this would be the only gift received at Christmas time. The hope is to raise as much money as possible to enable parishioners to reach even more children this Christmas.

All proceeds from this event are in aid of the Operation Christmas child shoebox appeal.

SHIRLEY POWELL

Dyspraxia support

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group at 7.30 pm IS on Monday, May 10, in the Mary Lennox Room, Barry Hospital, Colcot Road, Barry.

There will be a presentation on the statementing process.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group provides support for children with dyspraxia and their families. The group helps to liaise with education authorities and the Welsh Assembly. It is running a laptop project to support pupils with dyspraxia.

Families (both parents and children) of young people with dyspraxia and related conditions (e.g. dyslexia, ADHD, Aspergers) are welcome.

Player appeal

IF you are currently in school year-6 and would like to play football next season, Rhoose Football Club would be delighted to hear from you, as the club does not have a big enough squad to progress to junior football.

If you would like more information, contact the secretary (Mark Bartlett) on 01446 710834 or 07504214826.

Heritage Centre Coalition appear at 'Fortress Wales'

ABOVE: Alun Robertson of the VHCC chatting to members of the public (see more pictures on pages 16 and 18).

MEMBERS of the group lobbying for a Heritage Centre in the Vale of Glamorgan were delighted with the level of response to their free World War One family history research facility which they offered last weekend at 'Fortress Wales' – the multi-period re-enactment event staged at Margam Park.

Spokesman Dr Jonathan Hicks said that the coalition was inundated with request for information on relatives who served during the Great War.

Dr Hicks added: "The level of interest in researching family history is extremely high. We were busy all day and would like to thank the public for their patience in waiting their turn to be seen.

"We hope to stage a similar facility at Armed Forces Day at the Pier Head building in Cardiff Bay next month."

Guild workshop

THE Glamorgan Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers will hold a self-help workshop on spinning, weaving and braidmaking on May 8 in the Scout Hall, Dinas Powys (10am - 4pm).

For further details, ring Kirsten Gable on 01443 650336.

Councillors' surgery

RESIDENTS are invited to a surgery to discuss any concerns or issues.

Plaid councillors Caroline Turner and Barry Shaw will be joined by Keith Stockdale at Holton Primary School, Pyke Street, Barry from 11am to 12 midday this Saturday, May 8.

No appointments are necessary.

Floral Society

ON May 11, Bary Floral Society will hold a demonstration at St Nicholas Hall, Barry, entitled 'Spring Sunshine' by Mrs Kath Lee of Whitland.

Commencing at 2.15pm. New members are always welcome.

International polo returns to Fonmon...

ST David's Polo Club is delighted to be returning to Fonmon Castle on June 27 for the third year, courtesy of Sir Brooke Boothby, and the club is raising the bar by introducing a Welsh Polo team recognised by the Hurlingham Polo Association, to play an international game against Italy (sponsored by Microsoft).

The engine of the Wales team will be two top professional players, brothers Richard and Andrew Blake -Thomas, supported by amateur players Stuart Leigh-Davies and Microsoft's Ricky Cooper, who will be flying in from New York to play.

All players qualify due to Welsh parentage, and with Sir Brooke's support the club plans to make Fonmon Castle the home of Welsh Polo for the foreseeable future.

Italy will be a strong team, as the majority of its players will be South American players holding Italian passports. They are seeking revenge for the pain the Wales rugby team has inflicted over the years.

A club spokesman said: "With Cardiff Castle promoting its own Arena Polo event on the same day, we hope we can rely on strong support from the Vale to promote the game as it should be played, and establish its roots in the countryside.

Ticket prices start at £30 for a car and all passengers, within a picnic area on the north side of the ground with direct parking onto the ground.

Childrenadnu free of charge but with a warning that they must be under control, as polo can be a dangerous game and we would suggest the lowest age to be seven years.

Hospitably and self-catering units on the south side of the field, prices can be found at www.stdavidspolo.co.uk (sorry no children in this area).

Please come and enjoy a sporting day with some added 'dolce vita'.

We are supporting the Prince's Trust Cymru."

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Porthcawl U3A members become computer literate

U3A members.

MEMBERS of Porthcawl University of the Third Age, many encouraged by the enthusiasm of their grandchildren, have over the last few years benefited from the excellent facilities at Pyle Life Centre to become computer literate.

In a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, members soon learn they have nothing to fear and then really enjoy the experience.

Under the expert guidance of Martin Patten, the group meets on Mondays with an intermediate group in the mornings led by Geoff Henderson and Roger Plant, and a beginners group in the afternoons, supported by Martin Patten and Clive Mort.

The groups finish in May and restart in September. It is encouraging to see members of all ages seeking to make themselves competent in what to some is still a comparatively modern science.

All are to be applauded for making the effort in line with the best traditions of U3A.

CLIVE MORT

Under-10s triumph in Abergavenny

Porthcawl under-10s.

PORTHCAWL under-10s entered the Abergavenny tournament as holders and were hoping for another successful day.

The Green and Blacks were placed in probably the hardest pool of four and were up against Pontypool Utd in the first game.

The Seaweeds are always slow starters and this match was no different.

After a catalogue of errors, Porthcawl finally crossed the line courtesy of Ethan Waters. Louis Protheroe followed up with a try and so did Ben Roach and Ethan with his second. The final score was 4-1 to the Green and Blacks.

In the second game, Porthcawl were matched with Rhymney (Gwent). This proved to be a much easier game, with the Seaweeds winning by six tries to nil. The scorers were; Joe Stradling (three), Louis Protheroe (two) and Ben Roach.

Next to be played were a team from Lymm (Manchester). Lymm were a big side and had won this tournament in 2008. After a hard and competitive match, the final score was a 0-0 draw.

Tredegar were next and Porthcawl were determined to put some points on the board after the previous game.

Tries from Joe Stradling (three) and Brandon Cooper (two) made sure of this and Porthcawl ended the game 5-0 victors.

Rumney (Cardiff) were the under-10s' next opponents and were expected to be tough after a previous meeting with the Blues Cup joint winners which Porthcawl narrowly won. This was to be a whole different affair, with the Seaweeds running out winners by seven tries to three. The scorers were; Joe Stradling (three), Louis Protheroe (two) and Brandon Cooper (two).

Porthcawl met local rivals Tondu in the semi and struggled to contain their big pack. A three tries to nil win (scorers; Brandon, Louis, Joe) was enough to send the Green and Blacks through to the final and a meeting with the other Blues Cup joint winners, Cowbridge.

The team from the Vale had been on an unbeaten run much like Porthcawl's, so this was definitely not a game for the semi-committed. After numerous attacks by both sides, Ethan Waters dived over for the only try of the match.

Full credit to Cowbridge, they never gave up and kept on attacking. Porthcawl's defence though, stood firm and the Seaweeds came close to scoring a second on a few occasions. Porthcawl under-10s always seem to find that bit extra when needed, and are now unbeaten since November 2008 !

Player of the tournament was Ethan Waters.

Rest of squad; Connor Grant, Ben Collins, Harry Evans, Callum Morgan, Dan Williams, Max Budding, Kurtis Pridmore, Ben Davies, Connor Harrington-Pittam, Meuryn Nelson and Lloyd Mortimer.

Porthcawl RFC would like to express their gratitude to the under-10 coaches, Brendan Roach, Steve Protheroe and Julian Waters, for their dedication and commitment. Also, many thanks to the boys parents, without who this journey would not be possible.

IB

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sewage leak in hospital ward – again

ANOTHER leak of sewage has taken place at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

It occurred in Ward 8, which is on the first floor, and sewage seeped into the radiology department below. The toilets and sluice in Ward 8 were out of action while repairs were undertaken.

This is the third time there has been a sewage leak at the hospital in recent months – including an earlier problem in the same ward.

A spokesman for the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Trust said that as soon as it become apparent, staff from the estates department attended to rectify the problem.

External contractors were called and the cause of the leak was identified and removed the same evening.

Staff advised patients and relatives of the problem and alternative bathroom and sluice facilities were used.

The spokesman added that this is a recurrent problem because of "inappropriate" items being put into the system.

Staff had been reminded to be vigilant and there are signs in all bathrooms and toilets asking patients and staff to comply.

Police appeal after possible arson attack

POLICE are investigating a suspected arson attack on a timber footbridge at Coed Iestyn Woods in Pencoed.

The incident occurred between Tuesday evening, April 27 and the following morning.

Police Constable Samantha Beaumont of the Pencoed neighbourhood policing team said: "The footbridge was built by Woodbe of Tondu, which is a training organisation for adults with learning difficulties.

"I am appealing to public for any information with regard to this criminal damage."

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact PC Sam Beaumont at Pencoed Police Station on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police probe house burglary

BRIDGEND Police are investigating a burglary at a house in Blackmill between 5.15pm on Sunday, May 2 and 3pm on Monday.

Burglars forced entry into the house and removed a number of items, including two distinctive Underarmour jackets – one is described as black double layered with the Underarmour logo in silver across the left breast and a patch pocket on the right breast. It is hooded and with Underarmour in silver on the zip.

The second jacket is also a black zipped garment. Both are only available in the USA.

Also stolen were a black Acer laptop computer and an I-Pod Nano.

Detective Constable Rebecca Merchant of Bridgend CID said: "We are keen to hear from anyone who may have witnessed anything suspicious to do with this incident during the period in question, or who may have information about this crime."

Contact DC Merchant at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Pubs burgled in Nottage

DETECTIVES in Porthcawl are investigating after two pubs on Nottage Green, the Farmers Arms and the Swan, were burgled some time between 2am and 3am on Monday, May 3.

Both premises were broken into and a large amount of cash was stolen. Police are appealing for help from the public.Detective Constable Rebecca Merchant said: "We would like to ask anyone who may have seen anything unusual in the area of Nottage Green in the early hours of Monday, or who may have any information about these burglaries, to contact us as soon as possible."

Contact Det Const Merchant at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Local wild life play project gets a £1,000 windfall from Co-op

BRIDGEND youngsters are getting back to nature, thanks to a £1,000 grant from The Co-op.

ABOVE:Volunteer Gemma and 10-year-old James Mayne discover some wildlife at the nature reserve.

The donation was made to the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, which manages more than 90 nature reserves and which used the money to buy a willow shelter and equipment, including discovery bags, mirrors, magnifying glasses and stethoscopes, to develop a discovery area for young children.

Education officer Julie Furber said: "This wild play project will enable children to explore and discover new things about their environment, as well as encourage them to appreciate nature and learn more about it.

"We would like to say a big thanks to The Co-operative for supporting this important project."

The donation came from The Co-operative's Community Fund.

The fund offers grants of between £100 and £2,000, with local Co-operative members' committees allocating awards based on a set of values and principles such as social responsibility and caring for others.

About £100,000 is available annually to support charities and community groups in Wales.

Application forms are available online at the website www.co-operative.coop/membership/Community-Fund or by telephoning 0161 827 5879.

"The Community Fund can make a real and lasting contribution to local communities and we are delighted to make this award to the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales.

"Many community groups share our Co-operative values and could benefit from an award, and we would certainly welcome their applications," said The Co-operative's secretary in Wales, Mike Ash-Edwards.

Andrew finishes the marathon – *and gets the best news ever!*

A man from Llantwit Major, whose grandmother was diagnosed with breast cancer, ran the London Marathon on behalf of a cancer charity – and the day after the race the family was celebrating her being given the all clear!

ABOVE: Andrew with his London Marathon medal.

Andrew Harding, who works for Multi-Tech-Contracts in Bridgend, chose to support the cause 'Against Breast Cancer' because his grandmother Norma Harding from Cefn Cribwr had been diagnosed with the disease in April last year.

He told The GEM: "The day after the marathon my grandmother got the all clear at Velindre Hospital in Cardiff! They said she wasn't showing any more signs and all seemed well."

Andrew has put his name down for a second run next year.

He explained: "This year, I only got notice that I was going to run eight weeks before the event. There were a few drop outs and they gave me a call in February.

"I was already doing three or four miles a day, but I could have done with more preparation time."

If he gets a second crack at the London event, Andrew hopes to beat his finishing time of this year which was 5 hours 9 minutes and 56 seconds.

So far he has raised close to £1,500 for the charity, but hopes to send in more than £2,000 by June.

His partner, Nicola, said: "I'm calling Andrew 'The Running Man' from now on! It meant the world to him to be able to able notch up such a great personal achievement."

To contribute to Against Breast Cancer go to Andrew's on-line giving page: www.justgiving.com/andrewharding.

Kart star's Scots race

Tom Harvey of Bonvilston demonstrated his title credentials with stunning form in the second round of the 2010 national Super 1 karting series at Larkhall in Scotland.

Only a rival's ill-intentions prevented the highly-rated young south Wales speed demon from coming away with a handsome lead in the chase for the crown.

In heat one, he was runner-up. In heat two, it looked as if Tom was going to win.

Tom recovered to finish sixth and in the second final he came third.

Last-gasp Boris!

BETTWS and Bridgend Town's last game of the under-12 season was an evenly matched affair, ending in a 3-3 draw.

Bettws took an early lead with a long ball over the defence, only for Matthew Morgan to equalise shortly afterwards.

Both teams then scored after the break, with Bridgend defender Gareth Jones scoring his first goal of the season.

Bettws again took the lead until the last few minutes when, with time running out, Borys Udodenko equalised with a magnificent long-range shot that gave the goalkeeper no chance.

Iron Man 2 offers you plenty of bang for your bucks!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

WHEN *Iron Man* was released in May 2008, there wasn't the huge outcry of excitement you would normally associate with tentpole pictures.

After all, this was a film based on a Marvel superhero who wasn't particularly well known outside of the comic book fanbase, directed by a Jon Favreau, who was more notable for being an actor rather than a director, and starring Robert Downey Jr, a man who had received enough second chances to last a lifetime.

That the end product was such a riotously enjoyable film, establishing both leading man and director reputations, as well as earning huge sums at the box office, was a pleasing surprise, and one that easily necessitated the need for a sequel.

Iron Man 2 picks up from where the first one left off with the ramifications of Tony Stark's (Downey Jr) admission that he is Iron Man beginning to reverberate.

Stark is now a marked man, with Justin Hammer (Sam Rockwell), a fellow arms designer, hellbent on usurping Stark's power, the American government demanding that Stark hand over the Iron Man suit, while, in Russia, Ivan Vanko (Mickey Rourke) takes a special interest in Stark as he creates his own weapon.

Along with Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow) and friend 'Rhodey' Rhodes (Don Cheadle), Stark must try to overcome the obstacles placed in his way...

The superhero genre tends to follow a pretty routine path; the first film sets up the characters, their traits and usually ends with the main character accepting their powers and responsibilities, thus allowing the second to delve deeper into the psyche of the character and raising the stakes.

Some (*X2*, *The Dark Knight*, *Spiderman 2*) have achieved this with aplomb, and *Iron Man 2*, while perhaps not hitting those aforementioned heights, gives it a pretty good go, resulting in another thrilling and engaging outing for the character.

While it follows the template set out above, it's how it attacks it that marks it out.

Yes, the deep introspection that is usually found in these sequels is present and correct to a degree, but it isn't the overriding key theme, as Jon Favreau and screenwriter Justin Theroux do their best to emphasise the lighter side of their characters and their situations.

It's a technique that has to strike a fine balance, and by and large succeeds, Theroux's script zinging with witty one-liners, a satisfying sense of fun and a large dash of bravura and excitement.

What it does a little less successfully is fully explore the darker side of the story, a side which would give the film a little more drama and depth.

One of the key elements of the story was to be Tony Stark's alcoholism, which featured in a comic book story arc; however, here Stark has one heavy night on the ale which gives way to regrets and recriminations.

Coupled with the sidelining of the chemistry between Downey Jr and Paltrow, whose interaction fizzes when given the opportunity, and it's a screenplay that is more than workable within its confines, yet lacks the profundity and maturity to give it that extra degree of wallop.

In the director's chair, Jon Favreau carries on from where he left off with the first film, directing with style and finesse, giving the film a wonderful sense of scope and adventure, while ramping up the action sequences with aplomb.

There's nothing overtly different from what was on display in the first one – it is still mechanics versus mechanics as Iron Man has to battle a variety of technologies .

However, what is noticeable is that, much like Chris Nolan with *The Dark Knight*, Favreau is obviously far more comfortable helming these sequences, with a Monaco grand prix sequence showing he is adept at wringing drama from the action.

He is also given far more exposition to deal with narrative-wise, as Theroux's script aims to expand upon the universe with nods to other Marvel characters soon to be making their way to the big screen (a post-credits sequence setting up one of those films) and the formation of the Avengers group led by Samuel L Jackson's Nick Fury.

Marrying these concerns, as well as a story that has far more going on than its predecessor, shows how surefooted a helmer Favreau has become.

Given his incredible run of form at the moment, Robert Downey Jr is a whirlwind of quips and charisma as Stark, parlaying his natural likeability into the character, whose world-saving heroics are less an inconvenience and more a chance for him to pose for the cameras and accept the baubles.

However, the other side of the character, the one concerned with preventing trouble and ensuring people's safety allows Downey Jr the chance to show the more serious side of Stark, developing the character well.

While Gwyneth Paltrow's peppy turn as Pepper Potts was a highlight of the first film, here she's sidelined by the other characters, all of whom resonate, but it does a disservice to Paltrow and her chemistry with Downey Jr that she isn't afforded more of an opportunity to shine.

The new cast members are all good, Mickey Rourke bringing an edge of menace and dimension to the villainous Vanko, despite not being utilised all that effectively.

Sam Rockwell laps up playing the shady Hammer, showing just how good a performer he can be when not being under-utilised by studios.

Scarlett Johansson, as the mysterious Natalie Rushman, not only manages to warm up the males in the audience, but also proves to be more than adept at getting her hands dirty, particularly in a wonderfully enjoyable facility infiltration sequence.

Throw in Don Cheadle, slipping easily into Terrence Howard's shoes as Rhodes, and small turns from Favreau and Samuel L Jackson, and you have a cast that demand your attention and, more often than not, deliver.

With all the elements coming together, *Iron Man 2* is a sequel that, in terms of scale and spectacle, improves on the first one; however, it does lack the first film's freewheeling and carefree feel, coming across a little bit too structured and, dare I say it, forced.

It doesn't make *Iron Man 2* a poor film, far from it – but a bit more fizz would make it an even more enjoyable viewing experience.

VERDICT – The blockbuster season begins with a bang, as *Iron Man 2* sets a high standard for the rest of the summer's efforts.

Packed full of action, laughs and some strong turns, it may just fall short of the charm of the first instalment, but still offers up a thrilling two hours of entertainment. *Recommended.*

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 616.

● **£2000:** 586813.

● **The roll-over, which now stands at £1,000 was not won this week.**

● **£10:**183895; 782790; 866080; 658987; 622598; 230424; 624872; 227485; 738589; 289825; 668308; 701875; 573585; 661346; 541909; 201031; 838676; 103603; 116788; 141144.

● **£5:** 601144; 427678; 272397; 478319; 881001; 337854; 810613; 284554; 611650; 761814; 623601; 283507; 875987; 218797; 540636; 712053; 810598; 116084; 385312; 699366; 563331; 864954; 468352; 490208; 496516; 252950; 306225; 402935; 788081; 217695; 206315; 320439; 470130; 346693; 663035; 433046; 502459; 595837; 705878; 840017; 286674; 170830; 164864; 328828; 660872; 627122; 118622; 667731; 606954; 485436; 927861; 824477; 387246; 446231; 568643; 725191; 743553; 364517; 717528; 389178.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For Ty Hafan lottery information, please telephone 02920 672062.

National Smile Month 2010
May 16th - June 16th
British Dental Health Foundation
Advertisement Feature

National Smile Month says: 'keep your teeth healthy for a lifetime'

NATIONAL Smile Month, which runs from May 16 to June 16, is organised by the UK's leading independent oral health charity, the British Dental Health Foundation.

The foundation is dedicated to improving the public's oral health, and this year's campaign is called 'Teeth4Life'.

'Teeth4Life' highlights the importance of looking after your teeth and maintaining them for life. It also stresses the fact that a healthy diet can improve the quality of your life.

A spokesman for the foundation explained: "Once again, our message is intended to raise awareness of the systemic link between good oral health and good overall body health.

"The foundation is dedicated to supporting the dental profession. With the help of dentists, and if people take care of them, teeth can stay healthy for life."

For more information on National Smile Month contact British Dental Health Foundation, Smile House, East Union Street, Rugby, CV22 6AJ; or email: pr@dentalhealth.org; telephone: 01788 546365.

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Porthkerry Dental Practice – the very best in dental care

PORTHKERRY Dental Practice in Barry is a state-of-the art practice with all the latest techniques and equipment.

Dr Owain Joynson, the principal dentist, explained: "We are a team of three dentists and two hygienists striving to attain the very best in dental health for our patients.

"Treatment is carried out in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere with experienced staff.

"We use the latest x-rays, oral examination and other equipment to ensure correct diagnosis and treatment planning.

"We believe in regular care and check-ups to prevent long-term problems. Our routine care programme focuses on maintaining the health of teeth and gums, and we also perform regular oral cancer screening.

"For dearer treatments we are even offering interest free finance to make it easier for people to pay."

And there's more! Techniques such as Invisalign – a means of straightening teeth and improving your smile – and Cerec 3D, a method of ceramic dental restoration in an amazing single visit, illustrate two more reasons why the practice is at the cutting edge of dentistry.

If you love your smile and value your health, call 01446 735395; or for more information why not browse our website at www.porthkerrydental.co.uk

The beautiful smile you've always wanted
Tooth Whitening - Everyone can have whiter teeth. Professional tooth whitening is a successful and simple way of lightening the colour of your teeth. Predictable results without damaging your teeth.
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Tel. 01446 735395 email: porthkerrydental@btconnect.com www.porthkerrydental.co.uk

Probus members' workshop tour

TWENTY members of Dinas Powys Probus club recently visited MoD St Athan. They spent the day viewing the electrical and mechanical workshops. The visit concluded with a visit to the gymnasium. Members are pictured (above) with one of the Queen's Land Rovers. Commander Coxon is at the wheel, accompanied by Colin Linnard. RG

BUMPER CROWDS AT BONVILSTON FOR WELSH POINT-TO-POINT GRAND NATIONAL

AS you can see from Glyn Evans' pictorial record of Bonvilston hosting the Welsh Point-to-Point Grand National, it proved a great day out for the competitors, the spectators, and four legged friends too!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

Kenfig Hill RFC under-9s prevail in Maesteg festival

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36)

KENFIG Hill under-9s went to the Maesteg tournament on the back of some good recent form, taking a decent squad of 13 players.

Their opening game was against the hosts, Maesteg Welsh, and the young Mules made a strong start, winning 7 – 0.

The next game was against Bryncoch and again, Kenfig Hill were strong and won 7 – 2.

The third game was against Bryncethin, and this proved to be the toughest of the day, finishing in a 1 – 1 stalemate.

The final game was against a big Garw Valley side who were also unbeaten, and even though the Garw side scored virtually from the kick off, Kenfig stuck to their guns and won the game 3 – 2.

This give the Mules a total of 10 points, which was enough to crown them champions on the day.

Try scorers: Connor Brace (10); Deri Jones; Dante Phillips (two); Connor Morgan; Phillip Burnell (two); Corry Bower; Leon Jones.

Squad: Connor Brace(captain), Phillip Burnell, Dante Phillips, Connor Farnham, Connor Morgan, Jack Underhill, Connor McCarthy, Cameron Jenkins, Will Underhill, Corry Bower, Deri Jones, Leon Jones, Taylor Harvey.

All the coaches would like to thank the players for the effort put in and they hope to see everyone at the Millennium Stadium this Saturday, May 8, to watch the Kenfig Hill senior team in their bid to win the Swalec Plate.

Good luck boys!

G O'S

***ABOVE: Second row forward Jon Thomas looks to set up an attack; read the senior team's report on the back page.* (PHOTOGRAPH by PETER GILLING).**

Athletic under-10s take Pontypridd tournament

BRIDGEND Athletic under-10s entered the Pontypridd tournament on Sunday and again showed good form, running out competition winners.

Their first game was against Treorchy, and the team played excellent running rugby, moving the ball away from the larger Treorchy forwards.

The final score was 25–10 in favour of the Ath. Tries were scored by centre Will Mahoney (three) and outside-half Caine Woolerton (two).

Next up was English team Trowbridge, and although the Ath didn't quite hit the same standard, they managed to win convincingly 20–0.

Tries came from Nathan Willis (two), Dylan Parry and Will Mahoney.

Unfortunately for Will, he picked up a nasty shoulder injury which ruled him out for the rest of the afternoon.

The final match was against the home team Pontypridd, who were also unbeaten. This was a very close contest, with the big Ponty pack causing the Ath many problems.

It was still 0-0 at half-time and the Ath knew that they would have to dig deep to get a result. Better clearing out at the ruck resulted in the backs getting quality ball, from which Caine Woolerton was able to nip in for the decisive score.

The game ended 5-0 to the Ath. It was a hard test for the forwards all afternoon and they came through it well and picked up a lovely trophy for their efforts.

Squad: Morgan Hughes (captain.), Caine Woolerton, Iwan Osbourne, Will Mahoney, Harry Provstgaard, Dylan Parry, Drew Cording, Adam Murathodzic, Jac Bassett, Jack Walker, Rhy Durlucia, Matthew Hobby, Rhys Gamble, Joe Grabham and Nathan Willis, and all contributed to the success.

The boys particularly enjoyed the experience of playing at the 'House of Pain', Sardis Road, and were delighted to receive their trophies from Blues star hooker Rhys Thomas.

LG

ABOVE: The victorious Ath under-10 squad.

Porthcawl under-16 boys capped for Wales

PORTHCAWL Athletic under-16 Whites players Jordan Marks and Ben Thomas have both been chosen to represent the Boys Club of Wales at under-16 level for the internationals against Scotland in May, then in June against England, Ireland and the US, following trials and training sessions.

Club coach Steve Matthews said: "This honour is fully deserved as both players, Jordan, as captain, and Ben, as top scorer, have been brilliant in a season which could end with their club winning a remarkable treble

"With the league and challenge cup already secured, they are also through to the knockout cup final. All the players and coaches wish them every success."

The boys and their families would like to express their thanks to all the sponsors who have contributed to help with Jordan's and Ben's success.

Pencoed cricket

BOTH the first and second team fixtures on Saturday fell foul of the weather.

So, both sides will be looking to open their league season with wins this weekend.

The first team are at home to Pontnewynydd and the second team will travel to St Fagans.

The under-15s are also in action this week with a midweek game against Tonyrefail away today (Thursday).

New players are always welcome, especially youngsters, where full coaching is available from ECB coaches. For details, contact the club on 07890 625936 or via the website.

Day Sleepers chase leaders

Hardly Athletic.

DAY SLEEPERS stay three points off the leaders in the Bridgend six-a-side football league after Ian Vickers helped them to a 2-0 over The Pie Boys.

Leaders B Attack won again, sneaking home against Hangover Heroes, while Persil Boys FC managed the same score against Racing Inter, as Dan Cicco proved the difference.

Cornelly preserved their 100 per cent record in division one, winning for a sixth successive game, 2-0 against Team Extreme.

Athletico Brackla are just a point behind after their Mike Perry-inspired win over Young Exiles, and the odd goal in three was enough for 'Dead End Jobs, but Football Gods' to beat Hardly Athletic.

Anyone who wants to join the six-a-side football leagues in Bridgend can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisure-leagues.net

Kickboxer's appeal to fund Greece trip

THE mother of an eight-year-old kickboxing star is appealing for funds to send her daughter to compete in the world championships in Greece.

Rachael Paget, whose daughter Morgan attends Bryncethin Primary School, wants to raise about £400 out of the £800 she needs for the chance to join the Welsh squad on the trip.

Donations from Shillibier Haulage Ltd and the players of the Ospreys rugby team have been gratefully received, but more money is needed before the flights can be booked.

The championships take place on June 20 in Greece.

Rachael explained: "Morgan is really keen on kickboxing. She trains four nights a week and we have taken her to competitions in Worcester, Cardiff, Ebbw Vale, Merthyr and even France, where she won a gold.

"She has been fighting for a year and she has achieved eight golds and four silvers"

But it's not just the girls she will be competing against at the championships. Morgan, from Bakers Way, Bryncethin, will also try her hand at beating the boys in points mixed-gender bouts.

Mrs Paget said: "The sport has brought out the confidence in her. When she is in the ring she is a completely different person. She even likes kicking the boys to the floor."

Morgan trains with the Bridgend Warriors club in the Dunraven Arms, Bridgend.

For more information on helping Morgan call 07976 78150.

Helping hand is offered to the deaf community

ABOVE: Lessons in sign language.

A NEW initiative to encourage more employees to take up sign language as an extra language and skill is coming to Bridgend.

Award-winning Signs4Life are setting up introductory employee in-house courses in sign language towards equipping people in communicating with the deaf and hard of hearing community in Bridgend throughout 2010.

A spokesperson said: "You never know when you will come into contact with a customer, a colleague or member of the public who is deaf or hearing impaired.

"There are more than nine million deaf and hard-of-hearing people registered in the UK and we are working with organisations as varied as supermarkets, activity centres, the prison service, the Red Cross, housing associations, local councils, BT, hotels, care homes, opticians, hospitals, Royal Mail, schools and colleges, travel agents and even photographers, hairdressers and holiday parks.

"Each of our certificated courses help comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and meet your corporate responsibility.

"The forthcoming Adult Learners Week would be a great opportunity to introduce some deaf awareness into the workplace".

Signs4Life is leading efforts to raise awareness of hearing impairment.

The organisation is also behind campaigns to introduce sign language into the education system alongside other languages like French and Spanish and baby signing classes for parents and baby groups in local nurseries and childrens centres.

Signs4Life's chosen charity this year is The National Deaf Children's Society.

FP

Porthcawl bowls

THE 91 Club in Porthcawl is inviting bowlers from beginners to players of years of experience, to join them this summer at Griffin Park, Porthcawl.

The club, formed in 1991, is a mixed club and non-league. Members play on Sundays and Wednesdays from 4pm, and on Friday from 2.30pm.

Gentlemen and ladies are all welcomed.

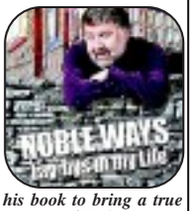
For more information, contact Derrick Griffiths, telephone 01656 784149.

You can now read your GEM online at: bridgend-today.co.uk or porthcawl-today.co.uk

NOBLE TALK

RADIO broadcaster and TV presenter Roy Noble, will be at Pyle Life Centre on Thursday, May 20, at 7pm to talk about his new book Noble Ways: Lay-bys in My Life, featuring anecdotes and essays from his many years of travelling around Wales, and the thousands of people he has met through his work.

Choral singing, eisteddfodau, chapel, leeks, lamb, cockles, larva bread and rugby union are all featured in his book to bring a true essence of Wales.



The event is organised by Bridgend County borough Council's library and information service.

Tickets are £2 and are available on 01656 815995, or from www.grandpavilion.co.uk

Barry Wanderers great against Bridgend...

but not so good at Usk!

BARRY Wanderers (BWCC) played Bridgend Third XI at Hayes Point and Wanderers were asked to bat first.

It looked a good decision as within six overs, BWCC lost both openers Tom Edwards (0) and Ed Sherriff (seven) cheaply and were struggling on 26-2. It got worse with the departure of Tom Ridgwell for three, and it was left to last year's player of the season, Aled Hughes, to steady the ship.

He was still keen to play his shots, but his control allowed the Wanderers to recover somewhat. However, he was caught and bowled by Brett for 48, and after Dave Johnson came and went for a bright and breezy 15, the Wanderers were in terrible trouble on 89-5 off 26 overs.

It was left to Neil Blundell and James Hassett to lead the fightback. Taking 31 balls to get off the mark, Blundell burst into life and played a number of beautiful shots to pick up the run-rate spectacularly.

He found a willing partner in Hassett, who rotated the strike well early on in his innings before unleashing carnage.

The runs began to flow and together they put on 83, and by the time Blundell had departed for a brilliant 57, he had put his side in a position to push for maximum batting points from the last five overs.

Hassett hit a number of boundaries before being stumped off Frew for 40, and it was left to Jamie Keir (12 not out) and the tail to scramble together a final score of 214-9, which was a terrific total, considering the first 25 overs .

The Wanderers' opening attack of Neil Mantell and Beckett bowled with verve and menace from the start, and although Henry scored freely to begin with, he soon fell, caught by Hassett at fly-slip off Beckett, and the Bridgend top and middle-order soon capitulated.

Mantell had Frew caught behind by Keir for one, Brett was bowled for a duck by Beckett and after Ling (two) and West (13) departed, the game was under control for the Wanderers.

Aled Hughes joined the party, bowling miserly and helping himself to a wicket before first-team debutant Phil John got in on the act and picked up two wickets of his own.

There was some late resistance for Bridgend with Jones (13) and, in particular, R Pearce (27), smashing some big hits but it was all in vain as they were eventually all out for 120, with Beckett picking up the final Bridgend wicket, his fourth of the match.

It was a great team effort by the Seasiders to claim a maximum 26-point victory after being really up against it.

They travel to Crumlin next week and will look to carry forward the momentum they gained from this match.

The SofaSofa Barry Wanderers man of the match was Neil Blundell.

Welsh Cup

SUNDAY saw the Wanderers travel to Usk to face the Welsh Premier League side in a Welsh Cup encounter.

On a chilly and overcast day, skipper Jamie Keir won the toss and invited his hosts to bat first on a rock-hard wicket which was a change for the Hayes Point men, who are more accustomed to batting on cabbage patches than concrete.

Faced with the task of trying to contain their more illustrious hosts, but also looking to push for wickets, the opening bowlers, Fenton and Beckett, did a good job in restricting the batsmen.

Usk didn't ever truly get away from the Wanderers and they were rewarded when Jonny Hill had Tamplin caught well by Blundell for 28.

However, there was little else for the Wanderers to cheer about. James and Townsend began to push the score along and combined boundaries with quick singles to rotate the strike.

The Wanderers had little answer to the master class they were witnessing and both James, who was eventually caught by Hill off Blundell, and Townsend helped themselves to centuries, scoring 129 and 123* respectively.

Usk finished their 45 overs on 329-2.

The Wanderers put up a sterling effort in the field and kept working hard but the gulf in class was apparent, with the most noticeable thing being that the Usk batsmen were able to capitalise on any loose balls or fumbles by fielders, whereas these may have gone unpunished in matches in the WCCC.

Overall though, the bowlers kept charging in with plenty of heart and never gave up.

The target was never in danger and Usk ripped through the Wanderers top-order.

Jamie Keir, Mark Ellis and David Johnson all departed for 0, and although Jonny Hill and Pete Coleman looked dangerous, they soon departed as well.

After nine overs the Wanderers were on 22-5. Steve Norman (13) and Neil Blundell steadied the ship and pushed the score towards respectability but after they departed, the rest soon followed.

The Wanderers were all out for 84 and comfortably beaten and outclassed, although the efforts of the Seasiders could not be questioned.

It was a good day though and a fine opportunity to play at a nice ground, have a cracking tea and play against top opponents.

The Dock View Autos Barry Wanderers man of the match was Neil Blundell.

Conservative Mayor-elect for the Vale is forced to withdraw her nomination

THE prospective Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Maureen Kelly Owen, has withdrawn because she faces a period of recuperation after surgery.

The Conservatives have now nominated Coun Colin Osborne, who represents the Llandough ward.

Coun Kelly Owen told The GEM: "I am really sorry to have had to withdraw my name as the Conservative group's nominee as Mayor-elect for the Vale Council at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting in May.

"This is because what I had thought to be simply a 'jolt' suffered before Christmas has proved to be rather more significant and I now need urgent orthopaedic surgery to deal with it.

"I am bitterly disappointed and hope to be recovered before too long. Nevertheless, one needs to be fully fit from the word go to do full justice to the role of Mayor of the Vale for the whole year in office."

She continued: "My personal consolation is that Coun. Colin Osborne has been nominated by my fellow Conservative councillors.

"This means that if full council accepts that nomination, former Councillor Mrs Ruby Osborne would become Mayor's Consort – as I had earlier asked her to be for me, and as she did so ably when I was deputy Vale Mayor in 2005-06."

Coun Maureen Kelly Owen (right) with Mrs Ruby Osborne.

Walker Cup at Cottrell Park

THE monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society, held recently on the ever-improving Button course at Cottrell Park, attracted 46 contestants – all attempting to win the coveted 'Walker Cup' supplied by the day's sponsors Gaskell & Walker, solicitors of Cowbridge.

The day's proceedings began with popular member David Harris greeting everyone with a glass (or two) of champagne to celebrate his 50th birthday.

This kind gesture was much appreciated by those in attendance, but also cited as the main reason why a number of competitors failed to perform.

Despite the damp conditions, a number of members returned very impressive scores with the sponsors' representative, Tosh Taylor, leading the field with 40 stableford points to collect The Walker Cup.

Bryan Owen and Neil McLean both scored 39 points to finish second and third respectively, with Bryan's back nine of 20 points proving crucial. Neil's failure to score on the 17th hole proved costly.

Chris Rooney, with 36 points, finished fourth.

Willie Morgan, normally a fine weather player only, deserves a special mention for completing his round – despite his many threats to return early to the clubhouse.

Winner Tosh Taylor (left) with runner-up Bryan Owen.

Guest section

The guest section was keenly contested, with Llancadle resident Chris Watson taking the honours with 32 points. Robbie Llewellyn, with the same score but an inferior back nine, finished runner-up.

Dai John was a surprise winner of the 'James the Butcher' sponsored longest drive competition, while nearest the pin on the par three holes were David Williams, Robbie Llewellyn, Ray Simkiss and also Islwyn Rees.

This was a remarkable achievement by 79-year-old Islwyn, whose was playing his third round of golf in five days. Islwyn was also successful in correctly guessing 71 balls would fail to return home to collect the 'Premier Turf' sponsored bottle of whisky, which raised £68 for the Velindre Hospital Appeal Fund.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 27, at St Mellons Golf Club, when members will be competing for The Shrieval Trophy, courtesy of Mr Islwyn Rees.

TMcC

Gadd century inspires Barry Athletic to impressive victory

CLUB captain Nathan Baker led his Barry Athletic First XI into the new season last Saturday and newly-promoted Upper Rhondda CC were the opponents.

The conditions were damp, grey and overcast, so anything could happen. Upper Rhondda won the toss and chose to bowl first.

The Stags were soon in complete control as boundaries were hit 'here, there and everywhere'. Opening batsman, Andrew Buckland, got the Stags going with an impressive 68 – which included eight fours and three sixes.

However, batsman of the day goes to Ian Gadd, with a magnificent 120 from 122 balls – including 21 fours.

After promising so much – with 378 runs during six friendly matches, Nathan Baker was brought down to earth with a three-ball duck.

Thankfully, other batting displays – Anjan Ganapathy (35), Scott Malpas (18) and Craig Thomas (20), helped the Stags to a massive 301-7 from their 50 overs – a new record for the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Cricket League.

After the interval, Upper Rhondda (somehow) set their sights on chasing down 302 runs to win and the innings immediately went in the Stags' favour, with the visitors restricted to 37-6 from 13 overs – with James Haswell and Peter Hellyar dominating with the ball.

It was only a matter of time, and with 15 overs to go, the Stags wrapped things up. Upper Rhondda were bowled for 179 and Peter Hellyar had his first five-wicket haul of the season. Haswell gave good assistance, with figures of 4-50 from 15 overs.

Barry Athletic First XI won by 122 runs and claimed the maximum 20 points.

Second XI

Second XI captain, Damon Leake, was left in frustration after the match at Newport Fugitives was cancelled, due to the Friday downpours at Newport.

This means that Leake will have to wait until next Saturday to make his debut as captain, against Radyr.

Cup delayed

Due to the overnight downpours in Cardiff, the Welsh Cup match between Pentyrch and Barry Athletic was cancelled and will be replayed on Sunday at Pentyrch.

Third XI

Newly-appointed Third XI captain, Andy Ellis, began his campaign with a friendly against St. Fagans. Fine weather at the Barry Oval mixed with moist conditions influenced the St Fagans captain to bat after tea.

The innings began emphatically with opening batsmen, Ashley Baker and Jophin Reji, getting the Stags off to a flyer with 29 runs coming from the first four overs.

However, Baker fell to an in-swinging 'yorker' for 22. Reji continued and with the assistance of promising youngster, John Phillips, the Stags were going nicely. With the score at 88-1 from 16 overs, Reji fell to a straight ball just three runs short of a well deserved 50.

Up to that point, the Stags were in full control. Now the visitors were getting their tails up and started to bowl with more purpose.

They upped their game and showed that they were no pushovers – restricting the Stags to less than four runs per over, in the following 10.

Thankfully, the rest of the batting order contributed to the innings – Jake Griffitt (16*), Richard Eastman (16), Edryd Thomas (26) and John Phillips (38 – a personal best), propelling the Stags to a reasonable 214-9 from their 40 overs.

After the interval opening bowlers, Jake Griffitt (8-1-42-0) and David Frost (8-1-30-0), looked very sharp as chances came from everywhere, for the first wicket.

Dropped catches from the slip-fielders brought much frustration for the Stags, who were starting to believe that it was going to be one of those days in the field.

A brilliant display from bowlers, Andy Ellis (8-1-20-0), Ashley Baker (8-1-17-1), Andrew Buckland (4-0-11-0), along with some excellent fielding from the Stags, brought the match back in Barry's favour, with three wickets falling (including two batsmen being run out).

The match was pretty much won by the time that the third wicket was taken and it was just a case of making sure that nothing extraordinary happened.

Thankfully, that wasn't the case and the Stags closed the game out, with St. Fagans finishing on 157-3 from 40 overs.

Warriors beat Eagles

COWBRIDGE Warriors under-12 football team are flying high after a spirited win over a determined Barry Eagles side.

The fact that the team was one goal down at half time, but hit back with six goals, showed just how steadily it has improved during this season.

Sixteen goals from Jo Traherne in the last four victories, with Ben Jones, Dan Oddy and Cai Owen also netting regularly, has seen the confidence of the whole squad soar.

Nathan Robson's goal from the halfway line will stay in the memory for a long time.

The midfield terriers on Saturday hassled the opposition with Owain Llion, Seb Chan and Max Lloyd excelling, and Alfie Sanderson, Steff Godwin and Cory Brooks proving popular and valuable additions to our squad.

All players who train share game time, and with the enthusiasm currently so high – who knows, they may be some hard summer training sessions – up Merthyr Mawr sand dunes!

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Public Notices

Gareth Jones are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £85,000 for **28 Bell Street, BARRY CF62 6JT**
Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Gareth Jones, 85 High Street, Barry CF62 7DX - 01446 744812 before exchange of contracts.

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Family Notices

PEREGRINE, Mair

Peacefully, on April 28 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Mair of Llanblethian, beloved wife of the late Philip, dearly loved mother of Nik and Jennifer, foster mother of John Watts and family, sister of the late Dr Bryan Thomas (Canada).

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, May 7, service 2.00pm at Llanblethian Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Treloar Trust, Froyle House, Upper Froyle, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4JX.

HORSFALL, Edward

Peacefully at ITU Hospital Morriston, Swansea on 29 April, Edward of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of Antonia, loving father of Michael and Margaret, and their partners. Resting at W.A.Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Tuesday 11th May 2010 at Our Lady & St. Illtyds Catholic Church at 10.00.a.m. followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 11.30.a.m. Family flowers only by request, but donations in lieu may be made to I.T.U. Morriston General Hospital c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

WILLIAMSON
Dennis Benjamin

Died suddenly at home in Barry on Sunday April 25.

Dearly-loved partner of Nora. He will be sadly missed and was much loved by Dennis and Jan, Stephen and Kim, Antony and Pam, Mark and Julie, Michael and Reinhild (sons and daughters in law). He will be sadly missed and was much loved by Nora's family, Emma and Alan, David and Taufiq.

Dennis was loved and cherished by all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dennis was vice-chairman of the Barry and District Male Skittles League and was an active member of Dow Corning Retirees' Association. For many years, Dennis was a coach driver for Hawthorn Travel and made many friends during that time. He will be very sadly missed by his loving family, friends and neigbours.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral service in the chapel of A.G. Adams & Son on Monday 10 May, 2010 at 1.45pm, followed by a committal service at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm.

Family flowers only please, donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to the British Heart Foundation Cymru, 14 Park Grove, Cardiff CF10 3BN.

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You haven't changed...
Happy 16th Birthday
(5/5/2010)
Carrinna Dee
Lots of Love, Mum, Dad, Keshia, Karisha, Nathan, Anthony, Jay and all the family.
x x x

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01446 775464 15

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07884 431858 16

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01446 792336 15

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01446 773558 18

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Crystal blue, 2 owners from new, only 38,000 miles, long MOT & Tax, C/L, air con, E/Windows. Excellent condition throughout.
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01446 403333
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S REG Alfa Romeo Twin Spark, Spyder Convertible.
Metallic Grey, MOT Oct 2010, taxed, leather, air con, classic summer motoring.
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Mazda 323
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Motability

Vehicles shown are for illustration purposes only. Spark LS 5dr, Aveo 1.2 5 5dr, Cruze 1.6 5 and Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT. Vehicles shown feature metallic paint at extra cost (Spark and Aveo at £395, Cruze and Captiva at £490). The Programme is available to eligible customers who trade in a qualifying vehicle against the purchase of a new qualifying Chevrolet Aveo, Lacetti, Cruze or Captiva at a participating authorised UK Chevrolet Retailer during the Programme period which is between 6th April 2010 and 31st May 2010 inclusive. Eligibility is subject to compliance with all requirements set out in these terms and conditions. The trade in vehicle must be a passenger car (M1) first registered in the United Kingdom between 1st March 2000 and 31st March 2004. Terms and conditions apply; please speak to your local retailer for further details. The new vehicle must be ordered between 6th April 2010 and 31st May 2010 inclusive, registered by 31st May 2010, and delivered new at first registration in the UK with no former keepers. The Programme cannot be used in conjunction with any other Programme or offer. Only one discount is available per new vehicle. Free 5 years warranty and free 3 years/30,000 mile service is available on Chevrolet Cruze, Captiva, Spark and Aveo models only. 5 years Plan only up to 100,000 miles for Cruze, Captiva, Spark and Aveo models. The warranty will expire when the vehicle has reached for 5 years or when the mileage limit has been exceeded, whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a two year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty and a third year no-fee customer option warranty. The warranty excludes wear and tear and consumable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 3 years/30,000 miles Fixed Price Servicing Package worth £395. Savings against current manufacturers retail price at time of publication and available on UK supplied vehicles. Terms and conditions apply please ask your local retailer for details. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO_2 Emissions 119 g/km. Aveo 1.2 5 5-door: Urban – 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban – 61.4 (4.6), Combined – 51.4 (5.5), CO_2 emissions 132g/km. Cruze 1.6 5 4dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8), CO_2 emissions 159g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 7-seat: Urban - 31.7 (8.9), Extra-urban - 42.8 (6.6), Combined - 38.2 (7.4), CO_2 emissions 197g/km.

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07 **07 JAGUAR X K convertible.** Zircon blue met with ivory sports leather interior, upgraded 20 inch setanta wheels, full colour satellite navigation, electric heated memory seats, cruise control, climate control, rear parking sensors, bluetooth phone prep, only 12,621 miles, fsh, 1 owner **£39,995**

07 **07 BMW X3 2.5si SE Automatic** in platinum bronze metallic with sand beige leather interior. aluminum running boards, cd, front and rear parking sensors, heated seats, only 33,160 miles **£18,995**

06 **56 BMW 2.0TD 320D SE 4-dr Saloon.** In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, automatic air con, upgraded alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 41,655 miles, fsh **£13,995**

06 **56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr** in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary I-pod connection, only 19,950 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers **£11,995**

06 **56 SAAB 9-3 1.9 Tid (150bhp) Vector 4-dr Saloon Automatic.** In steel grey with half leather seats, steering wheel mounted gear change, climate control, rear parking sensors, in dash multi CD, only 46,905 miles **£8,995**

05 **05 BMW X5 3.0D Automatic Sport 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In sparkling graphite with black leather interior, 19" alloy wheels, air con, CD, front /rear parking sensors, privacy glass, only 52,290 miles **£17,995**

04 **54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe.** In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles **£19,995**

04 **04 PORSCHE Carrera 3.6 Convertible** in lapis blue with metropole leather, bose speaker upgrade, starlight navigation, phone system, cruise control, trip computer, heated seats, sports exhaust systemm, full Porsche service history, hard top, only 42,761 miles **£29,995**

02 **02 LEXUS GS300 SE Auto** in platinum ice silver with Pembroke black leather interior, electric memory seats, sunroof, alloy wheels, climate control, cruise control, heated seats,only 52,262 miles **£6,495**

01 **51 MERCEDES SLK200 Kompressor 6-spd Convertible** in Linarite blue with full Siam leather interior, electric convertible roof, traction control, alloy wheels, cd, fsh, only 51,315 miles **£7,995**

SPORTS

09 **58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 SRi Sporthatch (Design Exterior Package)** In technical grey met with silver alpha interior, air con, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, rear spoiler, trip computer, only 26,770 miles **£10,995**

07 **57 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SII** in steel grey with full red leather interior, climate control, sunroof, cruise control, alloy wheels, only 23,600 miles **£10,495**

07 **07 SEAT Leon 2.0 TDi DPF FR 5-dr Hatchback.** In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 36,598 miles **£13,495**

06 **56 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4TSi (170ps) FT 5-dr** in reflex silver metallic with siemere anthracite interior, climatic air con, front fogs, alloy wheels, cd, only 49,998 miles **£10,995**

06 **56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback.** In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles **£10,495**

06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

05 **05 AUDI TT 1.8 (180) 3-Dr Coupe.** In Brilliant red with black Nappa interior, climate control, ESP, heated seats, CD, only 46,150 miles **£12,495**

04 **04 TOYOTA MR2 1.8 VVTi 140 6-spd** in bable grey met with Santa Monica leather, alloy wheels, chrome roll over bar, wind deflector, cd, alarm and immobiliser, only 49,750 miles **£7,995**

04 **54 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.9 TDi (100ps) Sport 5-dr** in rosewood red pearlescent with scala sports interior, alloy wheels, air con, body coloured bumpers, cd, only 59,790 miles **£6,495**

04 **54 MG TF 1.8 135 Convertible.** In ignition blue with anthracite Sebring interior, alloy wheels, cd player, alarm and immobiliser only 27,100 miles **£4,995**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles **£5,995**

04 **04 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTR Sensodrive** in arctic steel silver with neutron mesh interior, paddle shift, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, rear spoiler, cd, only 62,100 miles **£4,295**

03 **03 MAZDA MX5 1.8i** option pack in strada blue with black sports interior, c/d, alloy wheels, e/c windows, heated rear screen, only 83,750 miles **£5,495**

03 **53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible.** In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£4,495**

02 **02 MG ZS 2.5 180.** In anthracite black, with monaco ash interior with red inserts, alloy wheels, a/c, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alarm and immobiliser, only 62,310 miles **£2,995**

FAMILY

09 **09 FORD FOCUS 1.6 (100ps) Style** 5 door hatchback in Aquarius blue with dark flint interior, air con, front fog lights, colour coded bumpers, manufactures warranty only 5,760 miles **£9,995**

07 **57 CITROEN C3 1.4 HDi Cool 5-dr hatchback** in Arctic silver with Galand black interior, air con, cd, immobiliser, £35 a year road tax, one owner, only 37,845 miles **£6,995**

06 **56 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles **£7,995**

06 **06 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (130bhp) SIV Ghia 6-spd** in sea grey met with Aras interior, Sony cd, quickclear front screen, cruise control, climate control, alloy wheels, only 47,500 miles **£7,495**

05 **55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique** in met platinum silver with ruche cloth interior, auto lights, auto wipers, air con, cd, clour coded bumpers, only 16,380 miles **£5,795**

05 **05 HONDA Civic 1.7 CDTi** in magnetic blue with hatch fabric interior, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 55,130 miles **£6,495**

05 **05 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.5 DCi 100 Rush 5-Dr Hatchback.** In silver with beige interior, CD, air con, colour coded bumpers, seven seats, only 63,790 miles **£5,995**

04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£6,495**

03 **03 HONDA Civic Type S 5-dr** in clover green met with half leather sports seats, climate control, alloy wheels, rear spoiler, full Honda service history, only 36,030 miles **£5,695**

03 **52 BMW 1.8 316i SE Touring Estate** in Sapphire Black with antracite interior, alloys wheels, 6 CD multichanger automatic air con, colour coded bumpers, only 50,280 miles **£6,995**

02 **51 TOYOTA Corolla 1.6 VVTi GLS Automatic 5-dr** in Atlantis blue metallic with hocney interior, alloy wheels, air con, sunroof, cd auto-changer, body coloured bumpers, only 34,790 miles **£3,495**

SMALL

09 **09 VAUXHALL Corsa Club A/C 1.2 16v 5-Dr.** In black sapphire, with cable charcoal interior, air con, colour coded bumpers, CD, alarm and immobiliser, auxiliary output, only 18,218 miles **£8,495**

09 **09 CHEVROLET Aveo LT 1.4** in pearl black with bricket cloth, aircon, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 16,900 miles **£6,995**

08 **58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C).** 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles **£8,495**

08 **58 VAUXHALL Corsa Breeze 1.0 12v 3-Dr.** In silver lightning with punch charcoal interior, alloy wheels, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 12,010 miles **£7,295**

08 **08 FORD Ka Zetec Climate** in diamond white with cascade indigo interior, colour coded bumpers, alloy wheels, air con, cd, quickclear front screen, only 18,130 miles **£5,995**

08 **08 FORD KA Studio.** In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles **£4,995**

08 **57 FORD KA Style Climate.** In tango red with cascade interior, colour coded bumpers, air con, CD, Quickclear front screen, only 32,136 miles **£5,295**

07 **07 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 12V Urban** 3 door hatchback in met Blue with black interior, CD, electri windows, full service history, one owner, £35 a year road tax, only 7,080 miles **£5,995**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.4 5-dr Hatchback** in silver with black interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, fog lights, only 37,550 miles **£6,995**

06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles **£5,995**

06 **55 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style Climate 3-dr** in tonic blue with Kyoto ebony interior, air con, quickclear front screen, cd, trip computer, colour coded bumpers, only 41,820 miles **£5,295**

06 **06 FORD Ka 1.3 Collection** in panther black with Tic-Toc interior, cd, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, only 30,866 miles **£4,195**

05 **05 HYUNDAI Getz 1.1 GSi 5-dr** in clean silver with grey cloth interior, cd, 5 belted seats, driver and passenger airbags, immobiliser, colour coded bumpes, only 26,280 miles **£3,995**

04 **04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cdm alloy wheels, alarm, only 43,895 miles **£6,495**

04 **04 FORD Fiesta 1.4 SILVER Limited Edition.** In moondust silver with full midnight black leather, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cd, only 29,775 miles **£4,995**

04 **04 FORD Fiesta LX 1.25 3-Dr Hatchback.** In panther black with midnight black interior, quick clear front screen, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 63,000 miles **£3,795**

03 **53 MINI Cooper 1.6 Pepper** in pure silver met with Kaleido half leather interior, panormaic sunroof, alloy wheels, cd, body coloured bumpers, only 24,530 miles **£6,995**

01 **51 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet SE 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, digital climate control, cd, 16 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, only 46,010 miles **£3,995**

01 **Y VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4S 3-dr** in reflex silver met with Pepe interior, sunroof, body coloured bumpers, cd, immobiliser, full VW service history, only 68,350 miles **£3,495**

05 **05 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.5 DCi 100 Rush 5-Dr Hatchback.** In silver with beige interior, CD, air con, colour coded bumpers, seven seats, only 63,790 miles **£5,995**

03 **53 MINI Cooper 1.6 Pepper** in pure silver met with Kaleido half leather interior, panormaic sunroof, alloy wheels, cd, body coloured bumpers, only 24,530 miles **£6,995**

04 **54 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.9 TDi (100ps) Sport 5-dr** in rosewood red pearlescent with scala sports interior, alloy wheels, air con, body coloured bumpers, cd, only 59,790 miles **£6,495**

06 **06 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (130bhp) SIV Ghia 6-spd** in sea grey met with Aras interior, Sony cd, quickclear front screen, cruise control, climate control, alloy wheels, only 47,500 miles **£7,495**

08 **57 FORD KA Style Climate.** In tango red with cascade interior, colour coded bumpers, air con, CD, Quickclear front screen, only 32,136 miles... **£5,295**

05 **05 AUDI TT 1.8 (180) 3-Dr Coupe.** In Brilliant red with black Nappa interior, climate control, ESP, heated seats, CD, only 46,150 miles **£12,495**

05 **55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique** in met platinum silver with ruche cloth interior, auto lights, auto wipers, air con, cd, clour coded bumpers, only 16,380 miles **£5,795**

08 **08 FORD Ka Zetec Climate** in diamond white with cascade indigo interior, colour coded bumpers, alloy wheels, air con, cd, quickclear front screen, only 18,130 miles **£5,995**

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Vale under-15s take the national plate trophy at Llandovery

THE Vale of Glamorgan under-15 district rugby team have just completed their fixtures for the season and have managed to finish on a winning note.

The DEWAR Shield competition was always going to be a tough challenge for the team and as a consequence of a slow start to the season, the Vale were rightly positioned in the middle tier of the competition.

However, a combination of injuries, delayed fixtures due to poor weather and unavailability of players at key times meant that the best of this young group of players was very seldom seen.

This is no reflection on the team as the commitment, dedication and skill levels witnessed throughout the year's development programme, has been a credit to the local schools and rugby clubs for the continued high level of standards witnessed at this first representative level.

This was fully endorsed at the Welsh Schools National Sevens competition at Llandovery RFC on April 24, where the team managed to win the National Plate Trophy (the second year in a row that the Vale has done this).

The day's results meant that the following teams were disposed of en route to the final – Swansea Valley, Aberavon, Pembroke, Swansea (semi-final) and Cardiff (final) to top off a brilliant day.

All squad players can be very proud of the efforts shown at this competition and for the overall performance throughout the season.

Many of the squad will figure highly in next season's Cardiff Blues under-16 squad and hopefully follow in the success of Lloyd Chalke (Vale 2008/9) and achieve national honours – well done, Lloyd!

The management team of Lyn Howell (team manager) Huw Davies, Kevin Francis and Dan Connor (coaches) would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the squad the very best for the future, and to thank all the parents and schools for all of their support throughout the season.

2009/10 squad: Nathan Harris, Jack Austin, Evan Phillips, Kieron Smith, Will Anthony, Campbell Prosser, Tom Warren, Olly Hitchins, Ben Thomas, Matthew Goodlad, Jake Goodfellow, Connor Kavanagh, Jack Pritchard, Gus McPherson, Dafi Davies, Kyle Barros, Rhys Griffin, Luke Cooper, Harry Trotman, Tom Smith, Jack Wilcox, Sam Roberts, Christian Walters, Jordan Flynn, James Griffiths, Aaron Reed, Harry Hitchcock, Cameron Jones, Charlie Morris.

HUW DAVIES

WE welcome your sports items. Please email them to: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

OGMORE RIDER NICK LANDS HIS 100th CAREER WINNER

ON AND OFF THE TURF by BRIAN LEE

OGMORE'S Nick Williams (24) rode his 100th point-to-point winner on the French-bred *Musique En Tete* in the restricted race at the Llangeinor Hunt Steeplechases at Laleston.

Hunt supporters had worked hard rotovating and rolling the course to get it fit for racing following the long dry spell.

Musique En Tete looked all set for the runner-up's spot until the favourite Longwood Law, partnered by leading rider John Mathias, broke down approaching the last fence.

Musique En Tete, an 8-1 chance, is trained by Jonathan Tudor, whose wife Judith is the honorary secretary-and is owned by The Bird,White, Prior Group.

Williams, who has also booted home 45 winners under rules, rode his first point-to-point winner eight years ago at Larkhill on *Rimpton Boy*. In 2004, he won the Horse and Hound Cup at Stratford on *Torduff Express* and can also boast to having ridden a hat-trick at Cheltenham Racecourse a few years ago.

Pembrokeshire's John Mathias, who is making a bold bid for the national riders' championship, had an easy win in the mixed open race on David Evans's mare *Makena* who made nearly all the running to win by six lengths from *The Big Canadian*. *Makena* was winning for the fourth time this season.

Evan David (17) riding Norman Jones's grey *Silver Story,* took the members' race by 20 lengths from Farnogue after taking the lead approaching the 13th fence.

Evan's older brother Tom, having his first ride as a conditional jockey at Uttoxeter the same afternoon, was successful on *Liz's Dream*.

The six-year-old *Pelennor*, under Paul Tolman (23) landed a gamble in the confined race for owner Carl Pyne and trainer Robert Scrine. Given an enterprising ride by Paul Tolman, and backed from 6-1 to 5-2, *Pelennor* made all the running to score by five lengths from *Its Danny Boy,* with *Micks Prospect* a further two lengths away third.

John Williams's *Blazing Signet*, partnered by Kevin O'Keefe, was a four lengths winner of the young horse maiden after taking up the running four fences from the finish.

This seven-year-old bay gelding was given to trainer Jane Evans as a gift and is now owned by John Williams.

Dai Jones came late on the scene to steal the aged maiden race on owner/trainer Paul Thomas's *Rash Oak,* who won by two lengths from *Coolcoming*. Bought at the Ascot Sales three years ago, the quirky *Rash Oak*, according to Mr Thomas, "has a mind of his own".

Winners: Members: *Silver Story* (Evan David) 4-6 fav. Confined: *Pelennor* (Paul Tolman) 5-1. Mixed Open: *Makena* (John Mathias) 2-5 fav. Restricted: *Musique En Tete* (Nick Williams) 8-1. Young Horse Maiden: *Blazing Signet* (Keven O'Keefe) 7-1. Aged Maiden: *Rash Oak* (Dai Jones) 6-1. Pony Race: *Tippy Rosella* (Grace Dalton) 1-3 fav. Pony Race: *Mon Mellisa* (Mollyann Rees) 4-1.

You can email your views/news to Brian Lee at leebrian@btinternet.com or phone him on 02920736438.

Choirs in charity gala

WELSH Male Voice Choirs are helping Welsh families living with inherited cardiac conditions by supporting the cardiac charity SADS UK and the cardiac genetic service at University Hospital of Wales Cardiff.

On May 8, Barry Male Voice Choir will join 11 other male voice choirs, the Regimental Band of the Royal Welsh and Corp of Drums and soprano Elin Manahan Thomas and Angharad Morgan for a night of music and song, presented by BBC TV personality, Jason Mohammad.

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165/70TR13	Bridgestone B250	£46.34	£87	£165	165/70TR13	Avon ZT5	£38.04	£72	£140	165/70TR13	Trayal	£29.24	£55	£105
175/70TR14	Bridgestone B250	£59.46	£112	£210	175/70TR14	Avon ZT5	£47.96	£92	£175	175/70TR14	Trayal	£33.60	£62	£115
175/65TR14	Bridgestone B250	£52.89	£89	£170	175/65TR14	Avon ZT5	£41.50	£79	£150	175/65TR14	Trayal	£33.12	£60	£115

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185/65HR14	Bridgestone B250	£65.49	£120	£230	185/65HR14	Avon ZV3	£52.39	£98	£190	185/65HR14	Trayal	£35.22	£67	£130
185/65HR15	Bridgestone ER300	£73.60	£132	£255	185/65HR15	Avon ZV3	£56.12	£105	£200	185/65HR15	Trayal	£37.25	£70	£135
195/65HR15	Bridgestone B250	£62.16	£108	£205	195/65HR15	Avon ZV3	£52.52	£100	£190	195/65HR15	Trayal	£38.47	£73	£140

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195/60VR15	Bridgestone ER300	£75.46	£135	£260	195/60VR15	Avon ZV5	£62.28	£118	£230	195/60VR15	Federal	£44.37	£82	£155
195/65VR15	Bridgestone ER300	£63.79	£110	£210	195/65VR15	Avon ZV5	£54.24	£101	£195	195/65VR15	Maxxis	£46.86	£85	£160
205/55VR16	Bridgestone ER300	£72.86	£125	£240	205/55VR16	Avon ZV5	£65.29	£125	£240	205/55VR16	Maxxis	£54.71	£100	£190

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205/55WR16	Bridgestone ER300	£77.93	£145	£275	205/55WR16	Avon ZV5	£68.27	£125	£240	205/55WR16	Hero	£51.59	£95	£180
225/45YR17	Bridgestone RE050	£103.94	£199	£390	225/45WR17 XL	Avon ZV5	£90.83	£175	£330	225/45WR17	Hero	£55.55	£105	£195
225/40YR18 XL	Bridgestone RE050	£132.92	£250	£480	225/40WR18 XL	Avon ZV5	£106.24	£199	£385	225/40WR18	Duro	£58.19	£110	£210

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05 05 **CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE.** Silver, 50k .. **£2,950**
05 54 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 3-dr.** Silver, 58k ... **£4,475**
05 05 **FORD Fiesta 1.25 LX 5-dr.** Silver, 34k **£4,975**
07 07 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 5-dr Campus.** Met grey, 39k **£4,975**
04 54 **TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 VVTi 3-dr.** Met ice blue **£5,475**
07 07 **CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5-dr.** Black, 12k **£5,975**
07 07 **FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 5-dr.** Met blue, 6k **£5,975**
08 58 **CITROEN C2 1.4VTR** Met black, 8k **£7,475**
05 55 **PEUGEOT 206 AUTO 5-dr.** Met ice blue, 13k **£5,975**
03 03 **HYUNDAI 1.3 Getz 5-dr.** Met silver, 23k **£3,475**
07 07 **PEUGEOT 207 5-dr Diesel.** Met green, 31k **£6,975**

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04 04 **ROVER 25 1.6 4-dr AUTO.** 33k **£2,950**
04 54 **FORD Focus 1.8 Edge.** Met blue, 62k .. **£4,975**
03 53 **HONDA Civic 5-dr.** Alloys, met silver **£4,475**
05 05 **FORD Focus 1.8 TURBO DIESEL.** Met blue, 60k **£4,975**
07 07 **MITSUBISHI Lancer 1.6 Equipe.** Met Grey, 24k **£5,475**
06 56 **TOYOTA Corolla T3 1.6 5-dr.** Silver, alloys **£6,975**
06 06 **FORD Focus 1.6LX AUTO 5-dr.** Met blue, 20k **£6,475**
03 53 **VW Passat 2.0 4-dr, 20v.** Met ice blue, air con **£3,475**
02 51 **VW Beetle 1.6 3-dr.** Met silver, 60k **£5,475**
04 54 **RENAULT Megane 1.9 TURBO DIESEL.** Met blue, 60k **£4,975**

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07 56 **CITROEN Picasso TURBO DIESEL.** Met silver, 30k **£6,975**
03 53 **MG ZT 1.8 Estate.** Red, 67k **£2,950**
01 Y **RENAULT Scenic 1.4 Authentique.** Silver, 60k **£2,450**

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07 07 **CITROEN C4 VTR+ Sports Coupe** **£5,975**
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09 09 **MERCEDES S320 CDi.** Met silver, 300 miles only **£44,975**
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07 07 **AUDI Q7 Quattro TDi.** Met Blue, 33k .. **£28,975**
03 52 **NISSAN 350Z.** Met silver grey. **AUTO** .. **£8,975**
07 07 **MAZDA RX8 4-dr (231bhp)** Met black, 29k **£9,975**
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Successful competition for the young members of Rising Sun Kyokushin

THE International Welsh Rising Sun Kyokushin Cup was held recently at the YMCA HUB, attracting 10 teams from around Europe and the UK.

The start of the day saw the four-to-seven-year-old Rising Sun-'Rising-Stars' enter a 'touch contact point' style of Kyokushin Karate, where approximately 10 members of the Rising Sun club took part. This style of non-contact sparring is introduced for them to gain experience before they move up to the age eight-10 group.

Jack Long was the winner of the group, Ashleigh Millard second place and Theiry Cullinane third.

In the age eight-10 category, Morgan Long from the Rising-Sun club took pole position after impressively defeating two English opponents in the experienced category.

Josh Beith took a well-deserved second place in the novice eight-10 section after overwhelming two opponents after just being pipped by one point in the finals.

In the girls 14-16 category, where the level of contact is increased, Courtneay Taylor, the club's most dedicated member, took the event by storm, defeating both of her opponents in outstanding fashion, gaining her the championship title.

The men's lightweight full contact knockdown division saw Sebby Jenkins of the Rising Sun take on an English opponent, only to draw the first and second part of the match. On the last extension round, Sebby dug deep and won in the last 30 seconds of the bout.

He then came up against Neil Griffiths of the Rising Sun, losing to Neil in the second extension round.

Sebby took a proud third place after beating an opponent from Finland in the third place play off.

Lewis Giles of the Rising Sun, took first place after beating an opponent from Finland and pipping Neil Griffiths in the final.

In the middleweight knockdown section, Sempai Spencer Bennett took the title after beating the current British champion, Alan Shanawa from Crawley. The match went the full distance, with Sempai Spencer gaining all five judges' flags at the end of the match.

Spencer, the Welsh and British full contact champion, is now looking to recruit more talented students to train for the 2012 Commonwealth championships in Australia.

Paul Stephens, the heavyweight knockdown prospect at the Rising Sun Dojo defeated two opponents, including the current British champion, Saieed Hoosain, in the finals of the tournament, gaining Paul the 2010 Welsh title.

The Rising Sun Kyokushin Karate club team also won the overall 'Welsh Rising Sun 2010 Cup' for the most wins out of all of the 10 teams that took part. Senpai Spencer Bennett took the most technical karateka award, and the lightweight fighter from Finland took the most spirited karateka trophy.

The club trains at the new Samurai martial arts and training centre next to the Savoy. All instructors are fully qualified and first aid certified.

Anybody interested in a first free beginner lesson and special introductory offer should call Lee on 07861 699476 or for more information, visit the club website @ www.-rising-sun-kyokushin.co.uk

Numerous entries at steeplechase

A total of 135 entries have been received for the Tredegar Farmers' Hunt Steeplechases at Lower Machen on Saturday.

These include Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National winner *Galtee View*, *Overlut*, *Makena*, *Grey Kid* and *Chesnut Annie*.

The first race is at 2pm and the course is being watered to ensure good going.

Evan David won the maiden race at the Ross Harriers Point-To-Point on Sunday on Marc Cohen's French-bred *Qomix,* and Sally Randel,l riding Paul Miles's prolific *Lady Myfanwy,* took the ladies' open race.

BRIAN LEE

Honda joins the hybrid car marketplace

HONDA have a bright new entry into the hybrid car market with its latest model, the Insight.

So, just what is a hybrid?

They have been around a while now, but the principle is that the car retains a standard petrol engine, but has a back-up electric motor capacity – primarily for use around town.

It means that when the car is in traffic and is stopping and going, the petrol engine just shuts off – meaning that no petrol at all is being used.

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The car even gives you a score at the end of your journey – assessing how green your driving has been.

The car's 87 bhp petrol engine is supplemented by a 14 bhp electric motor, and Honda say that returns of more than 60 mpg are possible.

The five-door hatchback starts at £16,338 and, claims Honda, undercuts the Prius by around £3,000.

For more information contact Bassetts Honda, Bridgend, 01656 649009.

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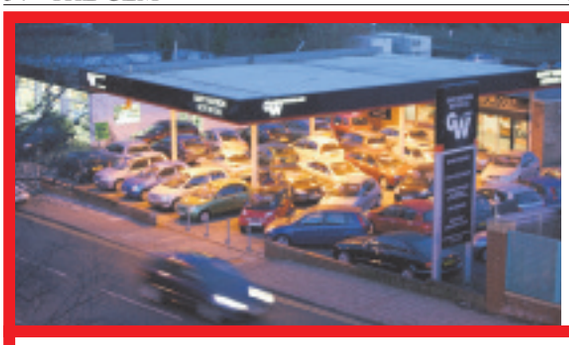

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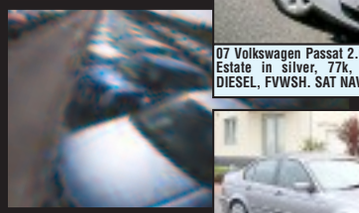

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GEM sport

ABOVE: Bridgend Athletic first team squad and management celebrate the end of their season.

ATHLETIC FINISH THEIR SEASON IN FINE STYLE

Corus 24 – 44 Bridgend Athletic
Report by Mark Davies.
Photographs by Kerry Fothergill.

TWO seasons ago it was defeat at the hands of Corus in the last game of the season that sent Bridgend Athletic down to Division Two.

On Saturday, with Corus sitting only one point above them, it was an opportunity for the Athletic to finish their season with an away win and match their highest-ever finishing position in the national leagues.

The Athletic, welcoming back captain Rod Jones after a few weeks absence through work commitments, were positive from the outset, with full-back Lindsay MacCausland looking dangerous as he joined the line at pace.

Corus were very physical and when Rob Coles was penalised for holding on just inside the Corus half, up stepped former Athletic Youth product Scott Robinson to bang the ball over from 50 metres.

Corus moved the ball into the Athletic half for Robinson to chip the defensive line and centre Aled Bevan ran on to a favourable bounce , wrong-footed the defence and crossed under the posts for Robinson to convert.

Athletic did not deserve to be 10 points down and upped their game, putting Corus under pressure. Wing Rod Davies caught the ball from a kick out of defence and his long pass infield to MacCausland was transferred to Dan Apsee, for the number 8 to off-load in the tackle to Coles, who raced clear – only to be dragged down just short of the posts.

Unfortunately, the Ath gave away a penalty and Corus cleared their lines. Shortly after, a similar situation saw MacCausland break through and this time there was no mistake, as quick ball from youth team scrum-half Tom Davies reached big Jamie Doherty, whose neat dummy allowed him to crash over for his first (and only) try of the season.

Athletic continued in the same vein and it was a pleasure to see last season's youth prop, Matthew Norman, having a strong display in the tight to match his impressive work rate around the pitch.

A long relieving kick from Corus was minored but the resulting drop-out was well fielded by home scrum-half Gareth Powell, who broke into the Athletic 22.

His pass to his supporting wing looked good, but Rod Davies sent his opposite number flying with an early tackle that earned him a yellow card – and Corus a penalty try – to the amazement of all except referee Mr Brickell.

The Ath had it all to do now with only 14 men on the field, and some desperate defence and plucky counter-attacking through Stuart Morris and Dan Apsee allowed wing Lloyd Pemberton to kick through, only to be just beaten to the touch down by a defender.

From the resulting scrum the Athletic drove forward via Matthew Hillman and Apsee, and quick ball reached Morris, whose long pass allowed MacCausland to race in at the corner. So, the Ath turned round only seven points adrift.

After the break, the Athletic ran in 24 unanswered points. First, the omnipresent Apsee found his pass blocked but was driven over by his rampant forward colleagues.

Then MacCausland again made a penetrating run before slipping a pass to Davies. From Corus's kick-out, Tom Penry-Ellis claimed the ball and play was carried on at pace by Tom Morgan, Simon Mustoe and Rod Jones before Tom Davies and Steve Lewis combined to release Rod Davies, who was bundled into touch.

The Ath stole the line-out and in a change of style, drove their way over for Morgan to score.

Then, in free flowing manner the ball was moved from one side of the field to the other. Davies found Mustoe inside him for the dynamic hooker to break some despairing tackles to force his way over. Tom Davies and Lewis converted one each of these tries.

The Athletic brought on all their replacements at this point to try to maintain the pace of the game but Corus were not about to lie down.

A missed tackle in mid-field by the Athletic allowed good support work by veteran No 8 Chris Kinsey to slip the ball to burly centre Anthony Rogers, who went over close to the posts. Robinson again converted.

Play now became scrappy with neither side making much ground but when a loose ball came his way, Steve Lewis stepped back and dropped a goal that brought up Athletic's 500th point of the season.

The Athletic surged back into the attack and with the defence rushing up, Stuart Morris slid a kick towards the corner. Corus wing Richard Thomas, who had shown plenty of ability throughout was this time a little slow in dabbing the ball down and MacCausland rushed in to pick his pocket. Tom Davies converted.

Bridgend Athletic continued to press but spirited defence by the home side held them out till the final whistle sounded.

Only a bonus point win by Corus over Bridgend Ravens in their final match next Friday can deny the Athletic fourth place in Division One, and with their neighbours in good end-of-season form as they battle to move away from the relegation zone, that place looks pretty much assured.

All in all it has been a successful return to Division One by the Athletic and, despite poor early season form, they have finished strongly.

Dan Apsee and Lindsay MacCausland have been ever present this season, with the latter finishing as top try-scorer with seven touch downs. Steve Lewis has scored 121 points since his return from Tonmawr in October. Simon Mustoe's try was the team's 400th point in the league this season.

The season is over for the Firsts, but the Second XV play in the District Enoch Lewis Cup Final next weekend, while the Youth have to play South Wales Police in the semi-final of the District Cup, and Dragons League Champions, Penallta, in the semi-finals of the RAF National League Play-Offs on May 15. They are hoping to be victorious in both and to finish another successful season on a high.

ABOVE: Lindsay MacCausland breaks away as Matthew Hillman and Matthew Norman follow in support.

Kenfig Hill Firsts find Seven Sisters in top-class form

ABOVE: Scott Waller on the attack.
(PHOTOGRAPH by PETER GILLING).

KENFIG HILL FIRSTS had to dig deep into their reserves for this game at Seven Sisters, as they have played a lot of 'catch up' games recently due to poor weather during the playing season. Unfortunately for the Mules, most of the 'catch up' games are away.

Seven Sisters had a slight edge during the first quarter but the Kenfig Hill defence was tight and all the home side had to show for their efforts was a penalty by outside half Kyle Davies.

Within 30 seconds, the Mules equalised with a penalty by outside half Gareth Lewis. Sisters then scored a try by No 8 Ewan Hopkins after some slick passing, converted by Davies.

Lewis responded with a penalty. Further woe befell the Mules when some poor tackling and some slick passing saw full back Daniel Norton cross the line for Sisters, Davies converting.

Davies then added another penalty and Kenfig responded with a penalty by Lewis.

This gave a half time score of Kenfig Hill 9 Seven Sisters 20.

Kenfig started the second half strongly and were rewarded with a penalty by full-back Nicky Giles. Sisters responded with a penalty by Davies.

The Mules started to control the game and were attacking strongly close to the Sisters line when a sloppy looped pass was intercepted by left winger Dafydd Francis, who hacked ahead and outpaced the Mules cover as he went the length of the field to score. The ever-accurate Davies put over the conversion.

Kenfig Hill went back on the attack and centre Chris Tossell crossed for a try.

This gave a full time score of Kenfig Hill 17 Seven Sisters 30.

For Kenfig the referee named scrum half Tom Briggs as their man of the match. There was a solid performance on the left wing by Ian Williams, with Scott Waller having an outstanding game in the back row.

SECONDS 18
BEDDAU 5

Congratulations to the Seconds for finishing off a successful season with a hard-fought victory against a strong Beddau team at home.

It was only resolute defending from a competitive Beddau team that kept the result in the balance until the final minutes. On numerous occasions, the young Mules backs broke through the first line of defence, only to be thwarted by some excellent cover tackling.

Prominent for the Mules in attack were three youth players, full back Shaun Burnell, fly half Owen Davies and wing Gareth Downs, supported by centres Marc Fitzgerald and Dai Williams.

The Mules forwards deserve credit for providing a good platform for the exciting backline with 'Mr Consistency', veteran Richard Underhill, leading as always from the front.

He was well supported by the rest of the pack with Dan Shaddis catching he eye as he continually turned bad ball into good.

Scorers Kenfig Hill: Shaun Burnell (two penalties and one conversion); Stuart Jones (one try); and Owen Davies (one try).

So well done to the Seconds for continually playing excellent attacking rugby all season, and also well done to both second team coaches, Kurl Knight and Mark Jones, for all their time and hard work.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)

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